

Public Document Pack



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023

A MEETING of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS on TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023 at 10.00 am

All Attendees, including members of the public, should note that the public business in this meeting will be livestreamed and video recorded and that recording will be available thereafter for public view for 180 days

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,

5 June 2023

BUSINESS		
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Order of Business	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
4.	Minute (Pages 5 - 8) Minute of meeting held on 16 May 2023 to be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Copy attached.)	2 mins
5.	Capital Financial Plan 2022/23 - Final Unaudited Outturn (Pages 9 - 38) Consider report by Acting Chief Financial Officer. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
6.	2022/23 Unaudited Revenue Outturn (Pages 39 - 72) Consider report by Acting Chief Financial Officer. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
7.	Balances at 31 March 2023 (Pages 73 - 84) Consider report by Acting Chief Financial Officer. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
8.	Corporate Debts - Write-Offs in 2022/23 (Pages 85 - 90) Consider report by Acting Chief Financial Officer. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
9.	Peebles Swimming Pool (Pages 91 - 98) Consider report by Director – Infrastructure and Environment. (Copy	10 mins

	attached.)	
10.	Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 (23) Six Year Summary Report (Pages 99 - 174) Consider report by Director – Infrastructure and Environment (Copy attached.)	15 mins
11.	Strategic Housing Investment Plan Progress for 2022/23 (Pages 175 - 186) Consider report by Director – Infrastructure and Environment. (Copy attached.)	15 mins
12.	Scottish Borders Council Local Festival Grant Scheme (Pages 187 - 196) Consider report by Director – Resilient Communities (Copy attached.)	10 mins
13.	Review of Support to Community Councils (Pages 197 - 204) Consider report by Director – Resilient Communities. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
14.	Scottish Borders Council's Quarter 4 and Annual 2022/23 Performance Information (Pages 205 - 294) Consider report by Director – People, Performance and Change. (Copy attached.)	20 mins
15.	Council Headquarters Re-Provisioning Working Group Consider appointment of Elected Members to Council Headquarters Re-provisioning Working Group.	5 mins
16.	Any Other Items Previously Circulated	
17.	Any Other Items which the Chairman Decides are Urgent	
18.	Items Likely to be taken in Private Before proceeding with the private business, the following motion should be approved:- “That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the aforementioned Act.”	
19.	Minute (Pages 295 - 296) Private Section of the Minute of Meeting held on 16 May 2023 to be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Copy attached.)	2 mins

NOTES

1. **Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.**
2. **Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.**

Membership of Committee:- Councillors E. Jardine (Chair), C. Cochrane, L. Douglas, M. Douglas, J. Greenwell, C. Hamilton, S. Hamilton, J. Linehan, S. Mountford, D. Parker, J. Pirone, E. Robson, M. Rowley, F. Sinclair, R. Tatler, E. Thornton-Nicol and T. Weatherston

Please direct any enquiries to Declan Hall Tel: 01835 826556
Email: Declan.Hall@scotborders.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of Meeting of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells and via MS Teams on Tuesday, 16 May 2023 at 9.00 am

Present:- Councillors E. Jardine (Chair), M. Douglas, J. Greenwell, C. Hamilton, S. Hamilton, J. Linehan (from para 5), S. Mountford, D. Parker J. Pirone, E. Robson, M. Rowley, F. Sinclair, R. Tatler, E. Thornton-Nicol, and T. Weatherston.

Apologies: Councillors C. Cochrane and L. Douglas.

In Attendance:- Chief Executive, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Director – People, Performance and Change, Director – Resilient Communities, Director- Infrastructure and Environment, Democratic Services Team Leader, Democratic Services Officer (D. Hall)

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 18 April 2023.

DECISION

APPROVED for signature by the Chairman.

2. **OFFICE PREMISES**

With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting held on 18 April 2023, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Director – Infrastructure and Environment which set out the proposed approach for how Scottish Borders Council intended to utilise its office accommodation, post pandemic, to realise best value and support communities effectively. A programme of work, which had commenced during the pandemic, was in progress and remained to be completed. There were some key areas within Council Headquarters that were the current area of focus which, once completed, would offer flexible solutions to office accommodation and enable improved opportunities for inter-agency and third party collaborative working. Members highlighted that the works to re-imagine how Council HQ was used had the potential to deliver huge benefits for the local community of Newtown St. Boswells, cut costs for Scottish Borders Council with regards to rental paid on behalf third sector agencies, provide the Council with appropriate training suites and a vibrant workplace for Council employees. Councillor Hamilton proposed amended recommendations, which were shared on screen for attendees. Regarding reference in the report to Covid safe capacity of the workspace at Council HQ, the Director – Infrastructure and Environment explained that due to previous legal Covid requirements the office was laid out in specific distanced manner, with adequate space between desks. Capacity of the office could be increased quickly, dependent on the acquisition of computer screens, docking stations and other information technology. Members highlighted that whilst hybrid working, and holding meetings via Microsoft Teams, had allowed Council services to be provided throughout the pandemic, connectivity problems remained a concern. In response to a question regarding the works at Paton Street, Galashiels, the Chief Executive confirmed that the works had been completed and the building was occupied. Regarding the capital receipts received from the sale of property in Hawick, the Chief Executive explained that the receipts related to the sale of flatted accommodation above the contact centre, and that Council policy was not to ring fence receipts received, but to use the funds as part of the overall capital programme. Regarding the building at Tweedbank which was part occupied by CGI and the Inspire Academy, there was approximately 300m² vacant which remained vacant.

The space had been marketed for lease, with three ongoing enquiries. The space needed to be fitted out by whomever became the tenant of the space in the building. Following concerns raised on the necessity of a working group a vote was held. Councillor Thornton-Nicol, seconded by Councillor Sinclair, proposed that the recommendations of the report be approved as they originally were. Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Mountford moved as an amendment that his recommendations, which had been displayed on screen in the Council Chamber and online, be approved.

VOTE

Councillor Thornton-Nicol, seconded by Councillor Sinclair moved that the recommendations in the report be approved as they had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Mountford moved as an amendment that his proposed recommendations were approved.

Due to the number of Elected Members present online it was not viable to vote by the normal show of hands and therefore Members gave a verbal response as to how they wished to vote the result of which was as follows:-

Motion – 4 votes

Amendment – 10 votes

The amendment was accordingly carried.

DECISION

DECIDED to:-

- (a) establish a dedicated Member/Officer working group to oversee and drive the implementation of the HQ re-provisioning project, ensuring effective co-ordination and accountability;**
- (b) give initial endorsement to the Proposal and Vision for the new HQ as outlined in Section 4 of the report while empowering the Member/Officer working group to finalise the project scope, considering stakeholder feedback and expert input;**
- (c) approve the planned works for Council HQ, as detailed in Section 7 of the report, with a budget allocation of £480k from the Asset Rationalisation & Demolition Capital Block. This would enable the necessary improvements to be carried out promptly;**
- (d) encourage the exploration of additional development opportunities for the remaining areas of the HQ campus, maximising its potential to meet future demands, enhance operational efficiency, and accommodate other public services seeking collaborative space. An update on this to come to the Executive Committee by September 2023;**
- (e) request a comprehensive assessment of the flexible working policy's effectiveness, implications for the Council, and its impact on Service Delivery. This report should be presented to the Executive Committee by September 2023, allowing for timely evaluation and potential adjustments; and**
- (f) actively promote and support an authentic hybrid working approach, encouraging staff members to work remotely and in the office whenever feasible. This flexible arrangement could foster a productive and adaptable workforce while maintaining the benefits of face-to-face collaboration.**

3. **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE FUND**

With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 16 November 2021, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Director- Resilient Communities which provided evaluation and outcomes of the awards made in relation to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund, which was open from 5 January 2022 to 30 April 2022. The report explained that the Committee had agreed on 16 November 2021 to allocate £70k to create a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund. The purpose of that Fund was to enable non-profit making community/voluntary groups, schools and churches within the Borders to apply for grant funding to take part in celebratory events/community and legacy projects to mark the late Queen's platinum Jubilee Weekend 2-5 June 2022. Approval for decision making for the fund was agreed at Officer level, with final approval and sign off by the Director – Resilient Communities. The Committee had asked that a report providing evaluation and outcomes of the awards made in relation to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund be brought back at a later date. The Director – Resilient Communities presented the report and responded to Members questions. Regarding the number of organisations which had been unsuccessful in their application for funding, 18 groups had either withdrawn or been refused. In response to a question regarding the amount of funds which groups had applied for, discussions had been held with all of the applicants to determine what level of funding they needed to secure in order to ensure that their project or event was successful prior to awards being made. The Director confirmed that the overspend by the Council on the Fund had stemmed from high demand, combined with some applications taking longer than others to be submitted. That had resulted in concerns that some communities would feel aggrieved that they had not been able to access the Fund. The decision had been made through delegated powers by the Director of Resilient Communities and the Chief Financial Officer to increase the budget for the Fund based on the levels of demand which had been seen. The Director confirmed that the decision had been made at an officer level based on those delegated powers. The Chief Executive outlined the timing of the Fund, confirming that the celebrations had taken place in early June 2022, and that the application process had closed on 30 April 2022. Reporting of the expenditure was made retrospectively on 14 June 2022 and 22 August 2022 following the celebrations. The reporting of the expenditure, which had been a relatively small amount in the context of the budgets involved, had been made via the established virements process. Members highlighted that the level of community interest in the Fund had been extremely high, and that for reasons of fairness it would have been difficult to exclude some communities from accessing funding due to their lack of capacity to apply early in the application window. It was explained that due to the pre-election period of the local government elections held in May 2022, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to make a decision on all of the applications at an Elected Member level. Members congratulated the officers involved for their work. In response to a question regarding the rate of return of evaluations, which was 85.7%, the Director confirmed that engagement with groups who had not returned evaluation forms was ongoing, and invited Members to help encourage their communities to engage with the Communities and Partnership team who could assist with the completion and return of the forms.

DECISION

AGREED to note the number, evaluation and outcomes of the awards made from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund.

4. **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in Appendix 1 to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

5. **PRIVATE MINUTE**

The Private Section of the Minute of the meeting held on 18 April 2023 was noted for signature by the Chairman.

6. **SECOND HOMES COUNCIL TAX AFFORDABLE HOUSING INVESTMENT BUDGET PROPOSALS**

A report by the Director – Infrastructure and Environment was considered and the recommendations approved.

The meeting concluded at 10.10 am

CAPITAL FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 – FINAL UNAUDITED OUTTURN

Report by Acting Chief Financial Officer EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report, provides the Executive Committee with a statement comparing the final capital outturn for 2022/23 with the final budget for the year and identifies the main reasons for any significant variations.**
- 1.2 The final capital outturn statement for 2022/23 is included at Appendix 1 and includes the reasons identified by the Project Managers and Budget Holders for the variances to the final approved budget. This identifies an outturn expenditure of £63.537m which is £11.583m below the final revised budget of £75.120m including timing movement in the final quarter of £10.445m.
- 1.3 A number of macro-economic factors affected the Capital Plan during 2022/23. Unprecedented levels of inflation along with disruption in the construction materials supply chain continued to impact on the wider economy and consequently the Council. A surge in demand coupled with constraints on supply has led to price increases, shortages and longer lead times. Financial implications from these market conditions are reported within this final outturn report for 2022/23. This outturn position provides the basis to inform the Capital Plan requirements in 2023/24, with any longer term impacts being reflected in the financial planning process for future years.
- 1.4 In anticipation of inflationary pressures an inflation contingency of £1.253m was established at the 2021/22 year end to support potential budget pressures. Through the first three quarters of 2022/23 this contingency was increased to £3.501m, with a timing movement of this approved into 2023/24 to support the 2023/24-2032/33 Capital Investment Plan. This contingency is being increased by a further £1.022m in this final quarterly monitoring of 2022/23 with this being used to offset Planned Programming Adjustments in 2023/24.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Executive Committee:**
 - (a) **Agrees the final outturn statement in Appendix 1;**
 - (b) **Notes the adjustments to funding in Appendix 1;**
 - (c) **Notes the final block allocations in Appendix 2;**
 - (d) **Approves movements in the block allocations in Appendix 3;
and;**
 - (e) **Notes the whole project costs detailed in Appendix 4.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council approved the original Capital Financial Plan for 2022/23 on 22 February 2022 and detailed budgetary control reports were presented to the Executive Committee in August and November 2022 and February 2023.
- 3.2 The monitoring reports contained actual expenditure to date, together with the latest budget and projected outturn. The resultant variances were then analysed between in-year variances (i.e. timing issues) and overall project savings or overspends. Comments were provided for material variances. The outturn at 31 March 2023 will adjust the 2023/24 budget with movements carried forward in line with the Financial Regulations.
- 3.3 The table below shows the movements in the resources of the Capital Plan through 2022/23:

	£000s
Capital Plan 2022/23 as approved at Council 22 February 2022	103.318
Netherdale pitch replacement – Executive Committee 1 st March 2022	0.425
Land at Easter Langlee, Galashiels – Executive Committee 22 nd March 2022	0.132
Timing movements and budget adjustments reported as part of out-turn 2021/22	8.973
June Executive Committee timing movements and budget adjustments	0.342
Executive Committee 13 th September – High Street/Market Place, Jedburgh	0.200
September Executive Committee timing movement and budget adjustments	(15.379)
December Executive Committee timing movement and budget adjustments	(22.891)
Outturn timing movement and budget adjustments	(11.583)
Revised Capital Plan 2022/23	63.537

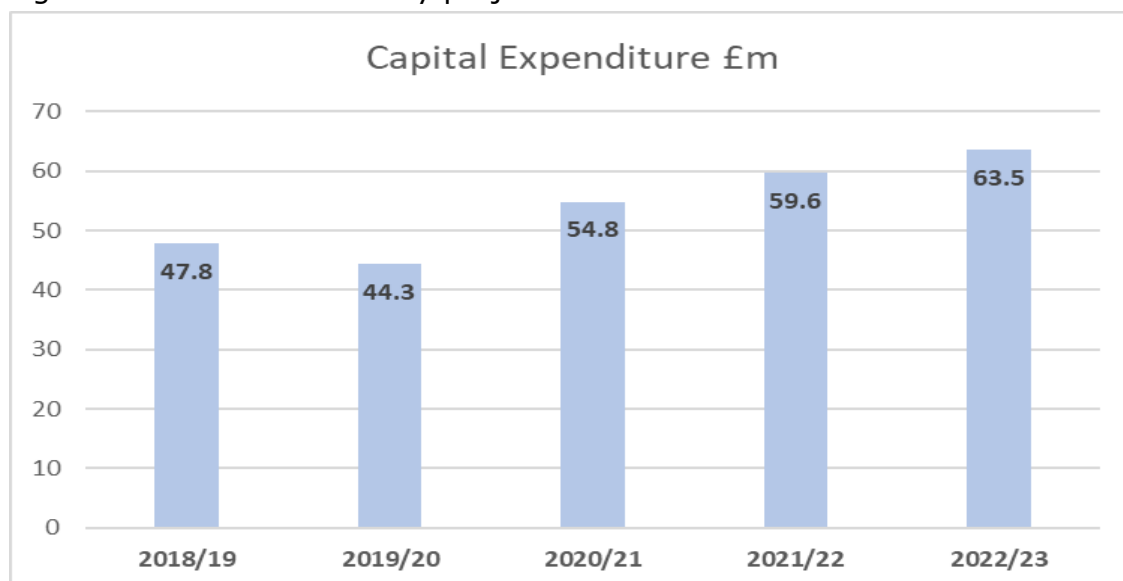
- 3.4 To complete the annual cycle of reporting this report compares the final budget for the year with the final, but as yet unaudited, outturn.

4 FINAL OUTTURN STATEMENT

- 4.1 Appendix 1 to this report contains the final outturn statement for the Capital Financial Plan for 2022/23 for each of the services in the Plan with the actual expenditure to 31 March 2023. The latest approved budget includes all approvals made up to and including 31 March 2023.
- 4.2 The final outturn shows a final net variance of £11.583m against the current approved budget as a result of timing movements and budget adjustments between financial years.
- 4.3 Appendix 2 contains a summary of the final out-turn position for each block contained within the 2022/23 Capital Plan.
- 4.4 Appendix 3 contains a summary for each block allocation within the 2023/24 Capital Plan of approved and proposed proposals for various projects and

programmes.

- 4.5 Appendix 4 contains a list of estimated whole life project costs for those key schemes where the project has not been completed in the financial year 2022/23.
- 4.6 The Council delivered a Capital spend of £63.5m in 2022/23, this continues a positive trend in spend levels over the past 5 years as shown in the graph below. 2022/23 represents the highest capital spend in the period through significant investment in key projects across the Borders.



- 4.7 Key highlights from variances in Appendix 1 are:

(a) **Plant & Vehicle Replacement**

Although procurement of new plant & vehicles has progressed well throughout 2022/23, delays to manufacturing and therefore delivery of vehicles has meant a lower than anticipated spend in the current year. This has primarily been due to the delay of six 26 tonne and four 7.5 tonne refuse collection vehicles with a value of £1.5m. These vehicles are now estimated for delivery in June 2023.

(b) **Hawick Flood Protection Scheme**

The project is now in the final year of construction and is proceeding well to completion, a timing movement to 2023/24 of £3.839m is required to align with delivery timescales.

(c) **Galashiels Academy**

Onsite enabling works are continuing and the project is at procurement stage. A timing movement of £1.536m is required to align with delivery timescales.

(d) **Peebles High School**

Onsite enabling works are continuing and the project is at procurement stage. A timing movement of £1.864m is required to align with delivery timescales.

4.8 **Emergency & Unplanned Schemes**

The table below provides an update on the position for Emergency & Unplanned Schemes:

	£000s
Budget as Approved at Council 22 February 2022	0.175
Timing movement Q3 monitoring to 2023/24	(0.057)

Coldstream Cemetery Development	(0.044)
Floodlighting	(0.001)
Transfer remaining budget to 2023/24 to contribute towards Planned Programming Adjustments	(0.073)
Outturn Balance	0

- 4.9 During the 2023/24 budget setting process a Planned Programming Adjustment budget line was added to the Financial Plan. This is offset where unspent project budgets became available through the year. There are also contributions to this from the changed approach to slippage in block allocations, where slippage will only be actioned where there is a legal commitment in place for the expenditure. All other underspend in block allocations is carried forward on a pooled basis to benefit the wider Capital Plan through the Inflation Contingency. The balance available to be transferred to the Contingency Inflation budget from 2022/23 into 2023/24, including the remaining Emergency & Unplanned budget, is £1.022m. This budget will be used as planned to contribute to the Planned Programming Adjustment of £1.855m, bringing the remaining balance to address in 2023/24 to £0.833m.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no financial implications beyond those contained in the report and Appendices 1-4.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There is a small risk that the final outturn may change during the external audit process as part of the final accounts for 2022/23. The processes for project management and ensuring sound budgetary control is maintained are subject to regular review and discussion with individual project managers and Directors. This process ensures that the Council aligns its management of the capital programme as closely as possible with the best practice guidance set out in the Accounts Commission 'Major capital investment in councils' publication. Each capital project has appropriate risk management and associated risk registers in place, following the Corporate Risk Management Policy and Framework, to ensure that risks are identified and managed to an acceptable level.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

No Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out in relation to the contents of this report; it is, however, expected that for individual projects this work will have been undertaken by the relevant project manager/ budget holder prior to budget being approved.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

There are no direct economic, social or environmental issues with this report although there may be within individual projects and these will be identified and addressed as appropriate as part of their specific governance arrangements.

5.5 Climate Change

There are no direct carbon emissions impacts as a result of this monitoring report; however, there may be within individual projects and these will be

identified and addressed as appropriate as part of their specific governance arrangements.

5.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes to the Scheme of Administration or Delegation are required as a result of this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Interim Chief Officer Corporate Governance (and Monitoring Officer), the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director People, Performance & Change, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted on this report and any comments received have been incorporated into this final report.
- 6.2 The Director Infrastructure & Environment has been consulted in the preparation of this report and the content of the detailed appendices and any comments have been incorporated.

Approved by

Suzy Douglas
Acting Chief Financial Officer

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Suzy Douglas	Acting Chief Financial Officer, 01835 824000 Ext 5881

Background Papers: n/a

Previous Minute Reference: n/a

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

Contact us at Suzy Douglas, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA; Tel: 01835 824000 X5881.

Scottish Borders Council
Capital Financial Plan

SUMMARY

	2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32		
	Actual	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Plant & Vehicle Fund	2,360	4,200	(1,840)	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	14,000	0	14,000
Non Plant & Vehicle Fund	129	147	(18)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flood & Coastal Protection	18,895	22,924	(4,029)	20,761	4,317	25,078	828	0	828	3,483	0	3,483
Land and Property Infrastructure	5,887	6,260	(372)	7,685	534	8,219	3,620	(109)	3,511	16,510	0	16,510
Road & Transport Infrastructure	12,937	12,542	395	8,617	21	8,638	9,407	0	9,407	52,709	0	52,709
Waste Management	172	280	(108)	340	(89)	251	106	0	106	910	0	910
Total Infrastructure & Environment	40,381	46,353	(5,972)	39,403	4,783	44,186	15,961	(109)	15,852	87,612	0	87,612
Corporate	4,628	5,738	(1,110)	11,138	1,110	12,248	184	0	184	1,187	0	1,187
Total Corporate Services	4,628	5,738	(1,110)	11,138	1,110	12,248	184	0	184	1,187	0	1,187
School Estate	11,335	16,090	(4,755)	40,000	4,255	44,255	69,887	0	69,887	86,413	0	86,413
Total Learning Estate	11,335	16,090	(4,755)	40,000	4,255	44,255	69,887	0	69,887	86,413	0	86,413
Sports Infrastructure	1,567	1,679	(112)	666	236	902	595	0	595	6,585	0	6,585
Culture & Heritage	221	224	(3)	281	0	281	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Culture & Sport	1,788	1,903	(115)	947	236	1,183	595	0	595	6,585	0	6,585
Economic Regeneration	4,300	3,803	497	18,776	(15)	18,761	16,975	0	16,975	38,442	0	38,442
Housing Strategy & Services	441	375	66	550	434	984	500	0	500	3,500	0	3,500
Total Economic Regeneration	4,741	4,178	563	19,326	419	19,745	17,475	0	17,475	41,942	0	41,942
Emergency & Unplanned Schemes	0	118	(118)	(1,680)	1,022	(658)	(1,680)	0	(1,680)	(6,190)	0	(6,190)
Total Emergency & Unplanned Schemes	0	118	(118)	(1,680)	1,022	(658)	(1,680)	0	(1,680)	(6,190)	0	(6,190)
Social Care Infrastructure	664	740	(76)	14,131	42	14,173	14,793	0	14,793	724	0	724
Total Social Care Infrastructure	664	740	(76)	14,131	42	14,173	14,793	0	14,793	724	0	724
Planned Programming Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Planned Programming Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Scottish Borders Council	63,537	75,120	(11,583)	123,265	11,867	135,132	117,215	(109)	117,106	218,273	0	218,273

Scottish Borders Council
Capital Financial Plan

		2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32		
	R A G	Actual	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Plant & Vehicle Fund													
Plant & Vehicle Replacement - P&V Fund	A	2,360	4,200	(1,840)	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	14,000	0	14,000
		2,360	4,200	(1,840)	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	14,000	0	14,000
Non-Plant & Vehicle Fund													
Other Fleet - Electric Vehicles	G	51	60	(9)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fleet - Electric Vehicles - Infrastructure	G	78	87	(9)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		129	147	(18)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flood & Coastal Protection													
Flood Prevention Works & Scheme Preparation	G	369	600	(231)	372	234	606	372	0	372	2,604	0	2,604
General Flood Protection Block	G	36	130	(94)	0	94	94	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawick Flood Protection	A	18,490	22,194	(3,704)	20,389	3,839	24,228	456	0	456	879	0	879
Coastal Change Adaptations	G	0	0	0	0	150	150	0	0	0	0	0	0
		18,895	22,924	(4,029)	20,761	4,317	25,078	828	0	828	3,483	0	3,483
Land and Property Infrastructure													
Asset Rationalisation	G	616	537	79	767	(79)	688	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building Upgrades	G	655	571	84	500	0	500	437	0	437	4,181	0	4,181
Energy Efficiency Works	G	2,016	1,455	561	1,806	(561)	1,245	720	0	720	6,815	0	6,815
Health and Safety Works	G	537	614	(77)	337	0	337	400	0	400	3,400	0	3,400
Free School Meals	G	19	100	(81)	2,589	81	2,670	0	0	0	0	0	0
Play Areas & Outdoor Community Spaces	G	881	1,829	(948)	646	1,048	1,694	958	(100)	858	1,131	0	1,131
Jedburgh High Street Building	G	763	783	(20)	929	20	949	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0
Coldstream Cemetery Development	G	119	75	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cemetery Land Acquisition & Development	G	14	5	9	0	0	0	105	(9)	96	983	0	983
Innerleithen Gypsy/Traveller Site	G	3	3	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land at Easter Langlee, Galashiels	G	21	21	0	111	0	111	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nature Restoration Fund	G	242	267	(25)	0	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
		5,887	6,260	(372)	7,685	534	8,219	3,620	(109)	3,511	16,510	0	16,510

Scottish Borders Council
Capital Financial Plan

		2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32		
		Actual	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	R A G												
Road & Transport Infrastructure													
Cycling Walking & Safer Streets	G	804	638	166	407	0	407	407	0	407	1,889	0	1,889
Engineering Minor Works	G	0	14	(14)	0	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lighting Asset Management Plan	G	176	160	16	160	(6)	154	160	0	160	1,120	0	1,120
Peebles Bridge	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reston Station Contribution	G	600	600	0	0	0	0	1,740	0	1,740	0	0	0
Roads & Bridges -inc. RAMP, Winter Damage & Slopes	G	9,003	8,950	53	7,660	(51)	7,609	7,100	0	7,100	49,700	0	49,700
Drainage, Kelso	G	0	50	(50)	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
Galashiels Transport Interchange	G	0	17	(17)	0	17	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union Chain Bridge	G	350	358	(8)	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roundabout at Easter Langlee, Galashiels	G	116	105	11	390	(11)	379	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eddleston Water Path	G	1,888	1,650	238	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		12,937	12,542	395	8,617	21	8,638	9,407	0	9,407	52,709	0	52,709
Waste Management													
RC - Improved Skip Infrastructure	G	3	4	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Easter Langlee Cell Provision	G	0	59	(59)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Easter Langlee Leachate Management Facility	G	4	0	4	140	(140)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Easter Langlee Waste Transfer Station	G	21	62	(41)	0	41	41	0	0	0	0	0	0
Closed Landfill Site- Health & Safety Works	G	30	30	(0)	57	0	57	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheeled Bins (100 in total) - Street Cleansing	G	0	10	(10)	42	10	52	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waste Containers	G	115	115	(0)	101	0	101	106	0	106	910	0	910
		172	280	(108)	340	(89)	251	106	0	106	910	0	910
Total Infrastructure & Environment		40,381	46,353	(5,972)	39,403	4,783	44,186	15,961	(109)	15,852	87,612	0	87,612

Scottish Borders Council
Capital Financial Plan

Plant & Vehicle Fund	
Plant & Vehicle Replacement - P&V Fund	Gross down budget in line with vehicles delivered by 31 March 2023.
Non-Plant & Vehicle Fund	
Other Fleet - Electric Vehicles Other Fleet - Electric Vehicles - Infrastructure	Gross down external grant funding in line with spend. Gross down external grant funding in line with spend.
Flood & Coastal Protection	
Flood Prevention Works & Scheme Preparation General Flood Protection Block Hawick Flood Protection	Timing movement into 2023/24 of £234k and gross up capital receipt for Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme. Timing movement into 2023/24 of £94k. Gross up additional Scottish Water funding (£135k). Timing movement into 2023/24 of £3.839m to align with delivery timescales.
Land and Property Infrastructure	
Asset Rationalisation Building Upgrades Energy Efficiency Works Health and Safety Works Free School Meals Play Areas & Outdoor Community Spaces Jedburgh High Street Building Coldstream Cemetery Development Cemetery Land Acquisition & Development Nature Restoration Fund	Acceleration required into 2022/23 for asset development and reconfiguration (£79k) Additional spend on lift infrastructure and electrical infrastructure funded from available budget within Health & Safety Block (£77k) and small budget transfer from School Estate Block for works within the School Estate (£7k). Timing movement into 2022/23 primarily for works at Lowood Lodge and Chirnside Primary School, where budgets had been approved within the 2023/24 block allocations. Available budget transferred to Building Upgrade Block (£77k). Timing movement into 2023/24 for Universal Free School Meal Expansion (£81k). Timing movements into 2023/24 for Jedburgh Skate Park (£245k), Peebles Skate Park (£10k), Gavinton (£60k), St Boswells (£180k), Newstead (£60k), Selkirk (£60k), Hawick Walled Garden Glass House (£9k), Innerleithen Surfacing & Drainage Works (£40k), Unallocated Balance (£284k). Re-allocate Walkerburn Alexandra Park budget to Walkerburn Pumptrack & Football Upgrade and accelerate from 2024/25 to 2023/24 (£100k) and transfer £50k of unallocated balance which will be returned should an external funding application be successful. Timing movement into 2023/24 for in line with programme for rebuild (£20k). Additional costs funded from Emergency & Unplanned (£44k). Timing movement from 2024/25 for early design costs (£9k). Timing movement into 2023/24 for works at Walkerburn riverbank to be carried out late spring/early summer due to SEPA regulations (£25k).

Road & Transport Infrastructure	
<p>Cycling Walking & Safer Streets</p> <p>Engineering Minor Works</p> <p>Lighting Asset Management Plan</p> <p>Roads & Bridges -Inc. RAMP, Winter Damage & Slopes</p> <p>Drainage, Kelso</p> <p>Galashiels Transport Interchange</p> <p>Union Chain Bridge</p> <p>Roundabout at Easter Langlee, Galashiels</p> <p>Eddleston Water Path</p>	<p>Gross up development Contribution for puffin crossing in Peebles £69k. Additional expenditure of £97k funded from available budget in roads block .</p> <p>Timing movement to 2023/24 to coincide with works on Hawick FPS.</p> <p>Gross up Development Contribution for lighting works at Priorsford Bridge in Peebles and small timing movement from 2023/24.</p> <p>Gross up additional STTS funding (£99k) and Local Bridge Fund funding (£71k), available budget of £97k used to fund additional Cycling Walking Safer streets Spend, net timing movement from 2023/24 £51k.</p> <p>Timing movement to 2023/24 due to delays in initiating works, work has now commenced on site.</p> <p>Timing movement to 2023/24 in line with project delivery timescales.</p> <p>Small Timing movement to 2023/24.</p> <p>Small acceleration of works from 2023/24.</p> <p>Gross up additional Sustrans funding (£238k).</p>
Waste Management	
<p>CRC - Improved Skip Infrastructure</p> <p>Easter Langlee Cell Provision</p> <p>Easter Langlee Leachate Management Facility</p> <p>New Easter Langlee Waste Transfer Station</p> <p>Wheeled Bins (100 in total) - Street Cleansing</p>	<p>Return small underspend to inflation contingency.</p> <p>Gross down Easter Langlee cell provision.</p> <p>Acceleration of £4k funding from 2023/24 to cover internal design team recharges and gross down 2023/24 budget</p> <p>Timing movement to 2023/24 to complete outstanding works.</p> <p>Small timing movement into 2023/24 to complete project (£10k).</p>

Scottish Borders Council
Capital Financial Plan

	R A G	2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32		
		Actual	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Sports Infrastructure													
Culture & Sports Trusts - Plant & Services	G	84	302	(218)	212	218	430	215	0	215	1,955	0	1,955
Netherdale Spectator Stand	G	1,172	1,055	117	70	7	77	0	0	0	0	0	0
Floodlighting	G	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherdale Pitch Replacement	G	307	318	(11)	15	11	26	0	0	0	0	0	0
Synthetic Pitch Replacement Fund	G	0	0	0	369	0	369	380	0	380	4,630	0	4,630
		1,567	1,679	(112)	666	236	902	595	0	595	6,585	0	6,585
Culture & Heritage													
Jim Clark Museum	G	18	19	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Hall Upgrades	G	0	0	0	281	0	281	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sir Walter Scott Court House - Phase 2	G	203	205	(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		221	224	(3)	281	0	281	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Culture & Sport		1,788	1,903	(115)	947	236	1,183	595	0	595	6,585	0	6,585

Sports Infrastructure		
Culture & Sports Trusts - Plant & Services		Timing movement into 2023/24 to align with revised project timeframes. Talks ongoing with internal management of Live Borders and external contractors to finalise plans for 2023/24. Progress delayed due to staff changes.
Netherdale Spectator Stand		Increased project cost of £124k in 2022/23 and 2023/24, gross up additional funding from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) (£342k) allowing the transfer of available budget to Inflation Contingency (£218k).
Floodlighting		Small pressure to be funded from Emergency & Unplanned (£1k).
Netherdale Pitch Replacement		Small timing movement into 2023/24.
Culture & Heritage		
Jim Clark Museum		Transfer available budget to Inflation Contingency (£1k).
Sir Walter Scott Court House - Phase 2		Transfer available budget to Inflation Contingency (£2k).

Scottish Borders Council
Capital Financial Plan

	R A G	2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32		
		Actual	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Economic Regeneration													
Borders Town Centre Regeneration Block	G	1,640	1,646	(6)	300	6	306	70	0	70	670	0	670
Borders Innovation Park	G	128	50	78	4,972	(78)	4,894	6,183	0	6,183	3,405	0	3,405
Newtown St Boswells Regeneration	G	0	0	0	344	0	344	56	0	56	0	0	0
Eyemouth Regeneration	G	254	254	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawick Regeneration Block	G	1,638	1,637	1	864	(1)	863	0	0	0	0	0	0
Galashiels Town Centre Regeneration	G	40	23	17	392	(17)	375	0	0	0	0	0	0
Borderlands	G	419	0	419	11,899	75	11,974	10,666	0	10,666	34,367	0	34,367
Access to Employment Land, Duns	G	110	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earlston Business Relocation	G	71	83	(12)	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
		4,300	3,803	497	18,776	(15)	18,761	16,975	0	16,975	38,442	0	38,442
Housing Strategy & Services													
Private Sector Housing Grant - Adaptations	G	399	375	24	550	(24)	526	500	0	500	3,500	0	3,500
Empty Homes Grants	G	42	0	42	0	458	458	0	0	0	0	0	0
		441	375	66	550	434	984	500	0	500	3,500	0	3,500
Total Economic Development & Corporate Services		5,181	4,553	628	19,876	853	20,729	17,975	0	17,975	45,442	0	45,442

Economic Regeneration		
Borders Town Centre Regeneration Block	Small timing movement into 2023/24 to fund archiving/interment of skeletal remains unearthed at Jedburgh Ramparts.	
Borders Innovation Park	Acceleration of budget from 2023/24. Project to be refiled, no plans as yet for building works for Phase 2 and 3, impact on City Deal funding.	
Hawick Regeneration Block	Small timing movement into 2023/24.	
Galashiels Town Centre Regeneration	Acceleration of budget from 2023/24 to fund balance of streetscape works.	
Borderlands	Gross up Sustrans funding (£494k) for Destination Tweed (Tweed Trails).	
Earlston Business Relocation	Transfer available budget to Inflation Contingency (£12k).	
Housing Strategy & Services		
Private Sector Housing Grant - Adaptations	Acceleration of budget from 2023/24.	
Empty Homes Grants	Gross up Second Homes Council Tax funding towards Empty Homes Grant Scheme £42k in 2022/23 and £458k in 2023/24.	

Scottish Borders Council
Capital Financial Plan

		2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32		
	R A G	Actual £000	Latest Approved Budget £000	Variance £000	Latest Approved Budget £000	Variance £000	Projected Budget £000	Latest Approved Budget £000	Variance £000	Projected Budget £000	Latest Approved Budget £000	Variance £000	Projected Budget £000
Emergency & Unplanned Schemes													
Emergency & Unplanned Schemes	A	0	118	(118)	175	0	175	175	0	175	1,225	0	1,225
Inflation Contingency	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planned Programming Adjustments		0	0	0	(1,855)	1,022	(833)	(1,855)	0	(1,855)	(7,415)	0	(7,415)
		0	118	(118)	(1,680)	1,022	(658)	(1,680)	0	(1,680)	(6,190)	0	(6,190)
Total Emergency & Unplanned Schemes		0	118	(118)	(1,680)	1,022	(658)	(1,680)	0	(1,680)	(6,190)	0	(6,190)

Emergency & Unplanned Schemes		
Emergency & Unplanned Schemes		To fund additional budget requirement for Coldstream Cemetery Development (£44k) and Floodlighting (£1k), transfer remaining budget of £73k to offset Planned Programming Adjustments in 2023/24.
Inflation Contingency		Transfer available budget from CRC - Improved Skip Infrastructure (£1k), Earlston Business Relocation (£12k), Sir Walter Scott Court House - Phase 2 (£2k) Netherdale Stand (£218k), Inspire Academy (£329k), Jim Clark (£1k), School Estate Block (£259k), Care Inspectorate Requirements (£34k). Available borrowing as a result of increased external funding contributions in 2023/24 (£93k). Transfer available inflation contingency of £863k in 2022/23 and £86k in 2023/24 to offset Planned Programming Adjustments in 2023/24.

Scottish Borders Council
Capital Financial Plan

	R A G	2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32		
		Actual	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Social Care Infrastructure													
Care Inspectorate Requirements & Upgrades	G	6	40	(34)	41	0	41	41	0	41	301	0	301
Technology Enabled Care	G	18	10	8	41	(8)	33	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential Care Accommodation - Upgrades	G	326	290	36	972	(36)	936	0	0	0	0	0	0
Care Village Tweedbank	G	202	202	0	6,954	0	6,954	7,308	0	7,308	210	0	210
Care Village Hawick	G	112	198	(86)	6,123	86	6,209	7,444	0	7,444	213	0	213
		664	740	(76)	14,131	42	14,173	14,793	0	14,793	724	0	724
Total Social Care Infrastructure		664	740	(76)	14,131	42	14,173	14,793	0	14,793	724	0	724

Social Care Infrastructure		
Care Inspectorate Requirements & Upgrades	Underspend in block during 2022/23 transferred to inflation contingency (£34k).	
Technology Enabled Care	Timing movement from 2023/24 as delivery earlier than anticipated of specific equipment.	
Residential Care Accommodation - Upgrades	Timing movement from 2023/24 as delivery of upgrades ahead of schedule.	
Care Village Hawick	Timing movement to 2023/24.	

Scottish Borders Council
Capital Financial Plan

CAPITAL FINANCING	2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32		
	Actual	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
C9001 - Capital - General Capital Grant												
Capital - General Capital Grant	(13,163)	(10,501)	(2,662)	(9,011)	2,740	(6,271)	(10,737)	0	(10,737)	(75,159)	0	(75,159)
Hawick Flood Protection	(10,523)	(12,916)	2,393	(13,805)	(2,393)	(16,198)	(148)	0	(148)	(920)	0	(920)
Play Areas & Outdoor Community Spaces	(117)	(117)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flood Prevention Works & Scheme Preparation	(358)	(592)	234	(372)	(234)	(606)	(372)	0	(372)	(2,604)	0	(2,604)
School Estate Block	(7)	(7)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Free School Meals	(19)	(100)	81	(2,589)	(81)	(2,670)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nature Restoration Fund	(242)	(267)	25	0	(25)	(25)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roads & Bridges -inc. RAMP, Winter Damage & Slopes	(139)	(68)	(71)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coastal Adaptations	0	0	0	0	(150)	(150)	0	0	0	0	0	0
C9002 - Scottish Government Specific Capital Grant												
Cycling Walking & Safer Streets	(638)	(638)	0	(407)	0	(407)	(407)	0	(407)	(1,889)	0	(1,889)
Roads & Bridges -inc. RAMP, Winter Damage & Slopes	(100)	(100)	0	(100)	0	(100)	(100)	0	(100)	(100)	0	(100)
Early Years Expansion	(487)	(1,276)	789	(736)	(789)	(1,525)	(614)	0	(614)	(433)	0	(433)
	(1,225)	(2,014)	789	(1,243)	(789)	(2,032)	(1,121)	0	(1,121)	(2,422)	0	(2,422)
C9003 - Other Grants & Contributions - Capital												
Other Fleet - Electric Vehicles	(51)	(60)	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fleet - Electric Vehicles - Infrastructure	(78)	(87)	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawick Flood Protection	(5,336)	(5,300)	(36)	(3,132)	(99)	(3,231)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawick Flood Protection (SG CG Advance)	0	(935)	935	0	(935)	(935)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Play Areas & Outdoor Community Spaces	(219)	(219)	0	(133)	0	(133)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roads & Bridges -inc. RAMP, Winter Damage & Slopes	(742)	(643)	(99)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jim Clark Museum	(15)	(15)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawick Regeneration Block	(1,638)	(1,637)	(1)	(754)	1	(753)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Borders Town Centre Regeneration Block	(1,636)	(1,642)	6	0	(6)	(6)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Borders Innovation Park	0	0	0	(3,020)	(59)	(3,079)	(6,183)	0	(6,183)	(3,405)	0	(3,405)
Landfill Provision	(4)	(59)	55	(140)	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peebles High School	(3,442)	(3,442)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eyemouth Regeneration	(223)	(223)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Borderlands	(419)	0	(419)	(11,899)	(75)	(11,974)	(10,034)	0	(10,034)	(34,367)	0	(34,367)
Earlston Primary School	0	0	0	(1,763)	0	(1,763)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Innerleithen Gypsy/Traveller Site	(3)	(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eddleston Water Path	(1,888)	(1,650)	(238)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access to Employment Land, Duns	(110)	(110)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridge Homes	(1,413)	(1,413)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherdale Spectator Stand	(382)	(40)	(342)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy Efficiency Works	(533)	(533)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherdale Pitch Replacement	(306)	(317)	11	0	(11)	(11)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Replace previous borrowing with Capital Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	(768)	0	(768)	0	0	0
	(18,438)	(18,328)	(110)	(20,841)	(1,044)	(21,885)	(16,985)	0	(16,985)	(37,772)	0	(37,772)

CAPITAL FINANCING	2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32		
	Actual	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
C9004 - Capital Funded from Current Revenue (CFCR)												
Digital Transformation	0	0	0	(1,812)	0	(1,812)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jedburgh High Street Building	(271)	(271)	0	(929)	0	(929)	(1,000)	0	(1,000)	0	0	0
Empty Homes Grants	(42)	0	(42)	0	(458)	(458)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects Funded from Revenue	(96)	0	(96)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land at Easter Langlee, Galashiels	(21)	(21)	0	(111)	0	(111)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(430)	(292)	(138)	(2,852)	(458)	(3,310)	(1,000)	0	(1,000)	0	0	0
C9005 - Development Contributions												
Reston Station Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	(100)	0	(100)	0	0	0
Play Areas & Outdoor Community Spaces	(21)	(14)	(7)	(48)	(27)	(75)	0	0	0	(11)	0	(11)
Engineering Minor Works	0	(14)	14	0	(14)	(14)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roundabout at Easter Langlee, Galashiels	(116)	(105)	(11)	(390)	11	(379)	0	0	0	0	0	0
School Estate Block	(57)	(57)	0	(100)	0	(100)	(100)	0	(100)	(700)	0	(700)
Cycling Walking & Safer Streets	(69)	0	(69)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lighting Asset Management Plan	(10)	0	(10)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Replace previous borrowing with Development Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	(4,652)	0	(4,652)	0	0	0
	(273)	(190)	(83)	(538)	(30)	(568)	(4,852)	0	(4,852)	(711)	0	(711)
C9006 - Capital Receipts												
General Capital Receipt	(688)	(685)	(3)	0	0	0	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	(735)	0	(735)
	(688)	(685)	(3)	0	0	0	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	(735)	0	(735)
C9007 - Plant & Vehicle Fund												
Plant & Vehicle Replacement - P&V Fund	(2,360)	(4,200)	1,840	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	(14,000)	0	(14,000)
Synthetic Pitch Replacement Fund	0	0	0	(369)	0	(369)	(380)	0	(380)	(3,970)	0	(3,970)
	(2,360)	(4,200)	1,840	(2,369)	0	(2,369)	(2,380)	0	(2,380)	(17,970)	0	(17,970)
C9008 - Capital Borrowing												
	(15,554)	(24,844)	9,290	(69,645)	(9,403)	(79,048)	(77,620)	109	(77,511)	(79,980)	0	(79,980)
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING	(63,535)	(75,120)	11,585	(123,265)	(11,867)	(135,132)	(117,215)	109	(117,106)	(218,273)	0	(218,273)

P 2027

	Latest approved budget £000's	Proposed Movement	Actual
Infrastructure & Environment			
Flood & Coastal Protection			
Flood Prevention Works & Scheme Preparation			
Galashiels Natural Flood Management	55	(5)	50
Flood Scheme Preparation Peebles	8	(6)	2
Community Resilience	10	(2)	8
Ettrick Valley Study	37	(7)	30
Lindean Study	12	(12)	0
Management Fee	32	0	32
Slitrig Study	31	(23)	8
Newcastleton Bund	120	3	123
Hawick Natural Flood Management	30	(30)	0
Hawick Surface Water Management Plan	10	(10)	0
Eyemouth Coastal	49	(27)	22
Dairy Mews Culvert, Galashiels	100	(100)	0
Minor Works	100	(15)	85
Selkirk Flood Protection	0	3	3
Gross up Capital Receipt for Selkirk Flood Protection	0	(3)	0
Flood Scheme Preparation Newcastleton	6	0	6
Timing movement to 2023/24		234	
	600	0	369
General Flood Protection Block			
Romanno Bridge Flood Bank	115	(105)	10
Minor Works	15	11	26
Timing Movement to 2023/24		94	
	130	0	36
Land and Property Infrastructure			
Asset Rationalisation			
Paton Street Galashiels - agile working	90	(15)	75
HQ Reception and new canteen	14	2	16
Asset development and reconfiguration	300	29	329
Hawick Town Hall - agile working	50	29	79
St Mary's Mill, Selkirk Upgrade new Museum	4	(3)	1
Emergency Planning Centre	30	(6)	24
Reiver Complex - demolition	5	(4)	1
Wilton PS, Hawick - demolition	11	12	23
Ednam, Kelso - demolition	11	12	23
Lilliesleaf - demolition	11	11	22
Wilton Centre, TU Hawick - demolition	11	12	23
Timing movement from 2023/24		(79)	
	537	0	616

	Latest approved budget	Proposed Movement	Actual
Building Upgrades			
Lift infrastructure upgrades	74	54	128
1 Castlegate, Jedburgh roofing upgrade	9	1	10
Wilton PS hot water rationalisation	8	(0)	8
Electrical Infrastructure management	12	23	35
Burnfoot PS window replacements	139	4	143
Burnfoot PS roofing upgrade	7	0	7
Hawick Library stonework minor refurbishment	42	(17)	25
Coldingham PS window replacements	0	2	2
Newby Court Units roofing upgrade	13	1	14
Kirkhope cemetery boundary wall upgrade	14	0	14
School toilet upgrades	80	0	80
Swinton PS Windows replacement	28	4	32
Newlands PS window replacement	11	1	12
Hillview Ind. Est Coldstream door replacements	37	11	48
Chirnside PS roofing upgrade - flat roof section	13	2	15
Duns depot window replacement	14	3	17
Schools resurfacing upgrades	19	14	33
Linglie Mill roofing & rainwater goods upgrade	32	0	32
Unallocated Balance	19	(19)	0
Budget Transfer from Health & Safety Works Block		(77)	
Budget Transfer from School Estate Block		(7)	
	571	0	655
Energy Efficiency Works			
Low Carbon Infrastructure Transformation (LCITP) Smart Grid	1,006	59	1,065
Non Domestic Energy Efficiency (NDEE) PH2	266	5	271
Broughton PS heating & lighting upgrade	90	(27)	63
Balmoral PS window replacement windows	93	1	94
Chirnside PS front elevation window replacement	0	349	349
Lowood Lodge Refurbishment	0	140	140
Melrose Corn Exchange heating conversion	0	34	34
Timing movement from 2023/24		(561)	
	1,455	0	2,016
Health and Safety Works			
Legionella upgrade water tanks	20	1	21
Asbestos Management	40	14	54
School Security upgrade work	0	7	7
Drumlanrig Primary window upgrade	100	(28)	72
Innerleithen Library dry rot works	25	12	37
Lochpark Ind. Estate external H&S upgrades	7	0	7
6 School Brae, Peebles window refurbishment	17	4	21
Southdean cemetery wall works	75	(59)	16
Makerstoun cemetery wall works	10	2	12
Stow cemetery wall works	10	1	11
Fire alarm systems upgrades	192	(1)	191
Broughton Primary emergency safety works	18	1	19
Broomlands Primary roofing works	0	53	53
Unallocated Balance	100	(84)	16
Budget transfer to Building Upgrades Block		77	
	614	0	537

	Latest approved budget	Proposed Movement	Actual
Play Areas & Outdoor Community Spaces			
Duns Public Park	238	3	241
Jedburgh Skate Park	268	(245)	23
Peebles Victoria Park Skate Park	199	(10)	189
Reston	77	0	77
Gavinton	60	(60)	0
St Boswells Jenny Moore's Road	180	(180)	0
Newstead The Orchard	60	(60)	0
Selkirk Bog Park	60	(60)	0
Hawick Walled Garden Glass house	98	(9)	89
Duns Public Park Drainage Works (estimate)	32	0	32
Innerleithen Public Park Drainage & Surfacing Works (estimate £100-130k)	40	(40)	0
Management Fee	66	(18)	48
Play Facilities & Surfacing Review	32	(1)	31
Unallocated Balance	277	(277)	0
Longformacus	142	0	142
Shedden Park Footpath	0	9	9
Timing movement to 2023/24		948	
	1,829	0	881
Cemetery Land Acquisition & Development			
Land acquisition & site development	5	9	14
Timing movement from 2024/25		(9)	
	5	0	14

	Latest approved budget	Proposed Movement	Actual
Road & Transport Infrastructure			
Cycling Walking & Safer Streets			
Cycle Related Activities	319	(135)	184
Walking Related Activities	319	301	620
Gross up additional funding	0	(69)	0
Budget Movement from Roads Block		(97)	
	638	0	804
Lighting Asset Management Plan			
Carnarvon Street, Hawick	30	4	34
Kenilworth Avenue, Galashiels	21	1	22
Queensway, Earlston	28	0	28
Craigerne Lane, Peebles	25	0	25
Langlee Drive, Galashiels	30	0	30
Marchmont Crescent, Greenlaw	10	0	10
Corroded Columns	16	11	27
Gross up Development Contribution		(10)	
Timing movement from 2023/24		(6)	
	160	0	176
Roads & Bridges -inc. RAMP, Winter Damage & Slopes			
Surface Dressing	3,197	(344)	2,853
Patching	1,950	45	1,995
Resurfacing/Overlays	619	122	741
Walls & Structures	255	(14)	241
Footways	385	(10)	375
Drainage	400	0	400
Masonry Refurbishment	1,071	114	1,185
Union Chain Bridge	115	0	115
STTS Schemes	958	140	1,098
Gross up STTS external funding	0	(99)	0
Budget movement to Cycling, Walking Safer Streets		97	
Timing movement from 2023/24		(51)	
	8,950	0	9,003
Waste Management			
CRC - Improved Skip Infrastructure			
Galashiels Community Recycling Centre	4	(1)	3
Budget movement to inflation Contingency		1	
	4	0	3

	Latest approved budget	Proposed Movement	Actual
Corporate			
ICT-Outwith CGI Scope			
PC replacement	24	(2)	22
Timing movement to 2023/24		2	
	<u>24</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>22</u>
Education & Lifelong Learning			
Early Learning and Childcare			
Early Years Expansion	1,276	(789)	487
Timing movement to 2023/24		789	
	<u>1,276</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>487</u>
School Estate Block			
Improve and enhance school environments:			
Outdoor Learning Provisions	50	(41)	9
Equipment & Furniture Replacement Programme (including white goods)	200	(31)	169
School Refurbishments	125	(12)	113
School toilet programme	0	5	5
Meet security and legislative obligations			
Kitchen refurbishment programme	13	(13)	0
Accessibility works	30	(10)	20
Secure receptions programme	66	(60)	6
CO ² Monitoring	0	44	44
ASN Provision Enhancements			
ASN Provision Enhancements	235	(150)	85
Urgent, unplanned and fees			
Professional fees	0	0	0
Project closure contingencies	0	0	0
Budget transfer to Building Upgrades Block	0	7	0
Budget transfer to Inflation Contingency	0	259	0
Timing movement to 2023/24		2	
	<u>719</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>451</u>
Culture & Sport			
Sports Infrastructure			
Culture & Sports Trusts - Plant & Services			
Teviotdale LC - Replacement Pool Covers	8	0	8
Teviotdale External Improvement	0	6	6
Transform pH Correction (CO ² to Sodium Hypochlorite) - All Pools	3	(3)	0
BMS upgrade	8	(1)	7
Legionella compliance	17	(17)	0
Tweedbank Bowls Calorifier	12	(12)	0
Selkirk Leisure Centre - calorifier replacement	15	(10)	5
Peebles Swimming Pool - circulation pumps	15	(15)	0
Eyemouth Leisure Centre - main air handling unit (AHU)	30	(30)	0
Kelso Swimming Pool - changing facilities & toilets	47	(47)	0
Peebles Swimming Pool - changing facilities, toilets, sauna, steam room	47	(47)	0
Gala Swimming Pool - pool pumps	8	(8)	0
Gala Swimming Pool - underwater lighting	6	(6)	0
Eyemouth Leisure Centre - secondary and main pool pumps & inverters	20	(20)	0
Eyemouth Leisure Centre - actuators pool heating	5	(5)	0
Peebles Swimming Pool - heat pumps	14	(14)	0
Selkirk Swimming Pool - roof mounted pool extract fans	9	(9)	0
Queens Leisure Centre - Heating Plant Renewal	0	32	32
Jedburgh Leisure Facilities Trust	12	(12)	0
Berwickshire Recreation Education Sports Trust	26	0	26
Timing movement to 2023/24		218	
	<u>302</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>84</u>

	Latest approved budget	Proposed Movement	Actual
Public Hall Upgrades			
	0	0	0
Corporate Improvement & Economy			
Economic Regeneration			
Hawick Regeneration			
Hawick Business Centre	1,630	(2)	1,628
Galalaw Access Road	7	3	10
Gross up income from SOSE	0	0	0
Timing movement from 2023/24		(1)	
	1,637	0	1,638
Eyemouth Regeneration			
Former Fishmarket/Museum redevelopment	254	0	254
	254	0	254
Galashiels Town Centre Regeneration			
Galashiels Masterplanning & Town Centre redevelopment	23	17	40
Timing movement from 2023/24		(17)	
	23	0	40
Borders Town Centre Regeneration Block			
Jedburgh Abbey Ramparts	4	(4)	0
Place Based Investment Programme 2021/22:			
Eyemouth - Waterfront Project	400	0	400
Galashiels - Town Centre Public Realm	20	0	20
Hawick Business Centre	80	0	80
Hawick Common Haugh Car Park	15	(2)	14
Craikhope Outdoor Centre improvements	20	0	20
Yetholm Community Shop	90	0	90
Peebles Burgh Hall	100	0	100
Place Based Investment Programme 2022/23	791	0	791
Yetholm Community Asset Development	126	0	126
Timing movement to 2023/24		6	
	1,646	0	1,641
Social Work & Practice			
Social Care Infrastructure			
Care Inspectorate Requirements & Upgrades			
Grove House, Kelso	8	(8)	0
St. Ronans, Peebles	8	(8)	0
Saltgreens, Eyemouth	8	(8)	0
Waverley, Galashiels	8	(2)	6
Day Services	8	(8)	0
Returned to Contingency Inflation		34	
	40	0	6

	Proposed 2022/23 Timing Movement £000's	2023/24 Approved Budget £000's	Proposed Movement £000's	2023/24 Projected Outturn £000's
Infrastructure & Environment				
Flood & Coastal Protection				
Flood Prevention Works & Scheme Preparation				
Galashiels Natural Flood Management	5	35		40
Flood Scheme Preparation Peebles	6	0		6
Community Resilience	2	11		13
Ettrick Valley Study	7	42		49
Lindean Study	12	5		17
Slitrig Study	23	11		34
Newcastleton Temporary Bund	0	8		8
Berwickshire Shoreline Management Plan/Coastal Change Adaptation Plan	27	141		168
Dairy Mews Culvert, Galashiels	100	0		100
Romanno Bridge	10	27		37
Minor Works	42	16		58
Denholm Flood Scheme Upgrade	0	38		38
Jedburgh Flood Scheme Preparation	0	38		38
	234	372	0	606
General Flood Protection Block				
Romanno Bridge Flood Bank	94	0		94
	94	0	0	94
Land and Property Infrastructure				
Asset Rationalisation				
Hawick Town Hall - agile working	0	10		10
Paton Street Galashiels - agile working	0	10		10
Asset development and reconfiguration	(79)	267		188
Council HQ building upgrade works	0	480		480
	(79)	767	0	688
Building Upgrades				
Peebles Swimming Pool roofing upgrade	0	500		500
	0	500	0	500
Energy Efficiency Works				
Solar Photo Voltaic panels installation	(152)	1,152		1,000
Existing Photo Voltaic estate reinstallations	0	100		100
Conversion of energy source (Oil to 'green' energy source)	0	145		145
Lowood Lodge	(136)	136		0
Chirnside PS window upgrade	(273)	273		0
	(561)	1,806	0	1,245
Health and Safety Works				
Legionella upgrade water tanks	0	67		67
Asbestos Management	0	50		50
School Security upgrade work	0	20		20
Fire alarm systems upgrades	0	150		150
Cemetery wall works	0	50		50
	0	337	0	337
Free School Meals				
Kitchen Equipment	81	1,054		1,135
Gordon Primary School Extension	0	280		280
St Peter's Primary School Extension	0	300		300
Glendinning Primary School Extension	0	200		200
Newcastleton Primary School Extension	0	50		50
Philiphagh Primary School Refurbishment	0	120		120
St Margaret's Primary School Refurbishment	0	75		75
Melrose Primary School Refurbishment	0	80		80
Drumlanrig Primary School Refurbishment	0	80		80
Stow Primary School Refurbishment	0	20		20
Balmoral Primary School Refurbishment	0	50		50
Kingsland Primary School Refurbishment	0	100		100
Burgh Primary School Refurbishment	0	100		100
Newtown St Boswells Primary School Refurbishment	0	80		80
	81	2,589	0	2,670
Play Areas & Outdoor Community Spaces				
Jedburgh Allerley Well Park	0	258		258
Jedburgh Skate Park	245	0		245
Peebles Victoria Park Skate Park	10	0		10
Gavinton	60	0		60
St Boswells Jenny Moore's Road	180	0		180
Newstead The Orchard	60	0		60
Selkirk Bog Park	60	0		60
Hawick Walled Garden Glass house	9	0		9
Kelso High Croft	0	66		66
Hawick Sleepy Valley, Burnfoot	0	222		222
Innerleithen Public Park Drainage & Surfacing Works	40	100		140
Walkerburn Pumptrack & Football Upgrade	0	0		100
Unallocated Balance	284	0		284
	948	646	0	1,694

	Proposed 2022/23 Timing Movement	2023/24 Approved Budget	Proposed Movement	2023/24 Projected Outturn
Road & Transport Infrastructure				
Cycling Walking & Safer Streets				
<i>Walking Related Activities:</i>				
20mph gateway works	0	63		63
Denholm in consultation with community on pedestrian crossing	0	20		20
Newcastleton in consultation with community on pedestrian crossing	0	20		20
Galashiels - 2 x Scott Street pedestrian crossing	0	100		100
<i>Cycling Related Activities:</i>				
Glentress A72	0	16		16
Electronic Signing	0	70		70
Lining	0	29		29
Earlston	0	10		10
Eyemouth	0	14		14
40mph quiet roads signing	0	65		65
	0	407	0	407
Lighting Asset Management Plan				
Weensgate Drive, Hawick	(1)	30		29
St Ronan's Terrace, Innerleithen	(1)	25		24
Deanshead, Eyemouth	(1)	20		19
Bank Street Brae, Galashiels	0	10		10
Glebe Terrace, Selkirk	(1)	20		19
Scott Street, Newcastleton	(1)	20		19
Marchmont Road, Greenlaw	(1)	20		19
Corroded Columns	0	15		15
	(6)	160	0	154
Roads & Bridges -inc. RAMP, Winter Damage & Slopes				
Surface Dressing	0	2,200		2,200
Patching	0	2,150		2,150
Resurfacing/Overlays	(51)	1,700		1,649
Walls & Structures	0	280		280
Footways	0	270		270
Drainage	0	310		310
Masonry Refurbishment	0	750		750
	(51)	7,660	0	7,609
Corporate				
ICT -Outwith CGI Scope				
PC Replacement	2	24		26
	2	24	0	26
Education & Lifelong Learning				
Early Learning and Childcare				
Early Years Expansion	789	736		1,525
	789	736	0	1,525
Learning Estate Block				
<i>Improve and enhance school environments:</i>				
Outdoor Learning Provisions	2	510		512
Primary School Refurbishments		1,087		1,087
School toilet programme		213		213
<i>Meet security and legislative obligations</i>				
Kitchen refurbishment programme		50		50
Accessibility works		30		30
Secure receptions programme		80		80
<i>ASN Provision Enhancements</i>				
ASN Provision Enhancements		0		0
<i>Urgent, unplanned and fees</i>				
Professional fees	0	180		180
Project closure contingencies	0	150		150
Unallocated balance		0		0
	2	2,300	0	2,302
Culture & Sport				
Sports Infrastructure				
Culture & Sports Trusts - Plant & Services				
Live Borders	218	185		403
Jedburgh Leisure Facilities Trust	0	15		15
Berwickshire Recreation Education Sports Trust	0	12		12
	218	212	0	430
Public Hall Upgrades				
Live Borders	0	281		281
	0	281	0	281
Economic Regeneration				
Borders Town Centre Regeneration Block				
Workshop Development	0	86		86
Town Centre Regeneration Enabling Works (Galashiels, Hawick, Eyemouth, Jedbu	0	214		214
Jedburgh Abbey Ramparts	4	0		4
Unallocated Balance	2	0		2
	6	300	0	306
Hawick Regeneration				
Hawick Business Centre	2	861		863
Galalaw Access Road	(3)	3		0
	(1)	864	0	863
Galashiels Town Centre Regeneration				
Galashiels Masterplanning & Town Centre redevelopment	(17)	392		375
	(17)	392	0	375

Social Work & Practice Social Care Infrastructure	Proposed 2022/23 Timing Movement	2023/24 Approved Budget	Proposed Movement	2023/24 Projected Outturn
Care Inspectorate Requirements & Upgrades				
Deanfield, Hawick	0	7		7
Grove House, Kelso	0	7		7
St. Ronan's, Peebles	0	7		7
Saltgreens, Eyemouth	0	7		7
Waverley, Galashiels	0	7		7
Day Services	0	6		6
	<u>0</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>41</u>
Residential Care Accommodation - Upgrades				
Deanfield, Hawick	0	185		185
Grove House, Kelso	0	185	0	185
St. Ronan's, Peebles	(9)	185	0	176
Saltgreens, Eyemouth	(18)	185	0	167
Waverley, Galashiels	(9)	184	0	175
Garden View, Tweedbank	0	50	0	50
	<u>(36)</u>	<u>972</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>936</u>

	2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26 - 2031/32			Total Project Cost	
	Previous Years Life to Date	Actual	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance	Projected Budget	Latest Approved Budget	Variance		Projected Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000
Flood & Coastal Protection														
01-C00223 - Hawick Flood Protection	47,954	18,490	22,194	(3,704)	20,389	3,839	24,228	456	0	456	879	0	879	92,007
Road & Transport Infrastructure														
01-C00183 - Reston Station Contribution	500	600	600	0	0	0	0	1,740	0	1,740	0	0	0	2,840
01-C00162 - Union Chain Bridge	1,455	350	358	(8)	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,813
Corporate														
01-C100403 - Digital Transformation	11,727	4,603	5,711	(1,108)	10,324	1,108	11,432	0	0	0	313	0	313	28,075
School Estate														
Early Years Expansion	342	487	1,276	(789)	736	789	1,525	614	0	614	433	0	433	3,401
01-C100262 - Eyemouth Primary School	1,154	23	84	(61)	3,360	61	3,421	7,402	0	7,402	4,000	0	4,000	16,000
01-C100374 - Earlston Primary School	780	1,528	1,717	(189)	3,518	189	3,707	7,887	0	7,887	173	0	173	14,075
01-C100264 - Gala Academy	1,787	3,277	4,813	(1,536)	11,985	1,536	13,521	28,585	0	28,585	12,985	0	12,985	60,155
01-C100313 - Hawick High School	183	358	150	208	1,705	(208)	1,497	886	0	886	53,027	0	53,027	55,951
01-C100419 - Peebles High School	1,386	4,508	6,372	(1,864)	16,396	1,864	18,260	22,723	0	22,723	3,265	0	3,265	50,142
Health & Social Care														
Care Village Tweedbank	20	202	202	0	6,954	0	6,954	7,308	0	7,308	210	0	210	14,694
Care Village Hawick	157	112	198	(86)	6,123	86	6,209	7,444	0	7,444	213	0	213	14,135
Economic Regeneration														
01-C00205 - Central Borders Business Park	7,556	128	50	78	4,972	(78)	4,894	6,183	0	6,183	3,405	0	3,405	22,167
01-C1000 - Eyemouth Regeneration	1,120	254	254	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,374
Borderlands	0	419	0	419	11,899	75	11,974	10,666	0	10,666	34,367	0	34,367	57,426

This page is intentionally left blank



2022/23 UNAUDITED REVENUE OUTTURN

Report by Acting Chief Financial Officer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report provides the Executive Committee with a statement comparing final revenue outturn expenditure and income for 2022/23 with the final approved budget for the year along with explanations for significant variances.**
- 1.2 A net, unaudited outturn underspend of £1.532m was achieved in the 2022/23 revenue budget. The £1.532m net underspend (less than 0.5% of final approved budget) was delivered following a number of earmarked balances being carried forward from 2022/23 into 2023/24. In total, these amount to £31.142m and relate to a number of initiatives across the Council and specifically include £1.187m of carry forward into the Council's Recovery Fund and £3.589m of carry forward by schools under the Devolved School Management scheme (DSM). Council services have delivered an underspend position whilst delivering significant financial plan savings totalling £12.027m. A high level summary of the outturn position in each Service is detailed from section 4 of this report.
- 1.3 The Council's finances and operating model have continued to be affected by the COVID-19 recovery period during 2022/23. Unprecedented market conditions and inflationary pressures, pressures from pay award and staff recruitment and retention challenges have also continued to impact. These financial challenges have resulted in a total draw down of £10.591m from the Recovery Fund during the year.
- 1.4 During 2022/23 detailed revenue monitoring reports were reviewed by the Council Management Team (CMT) allowing proactive corporate management action to be taken during the year where required. In line with Financial Regulations quarterly monitoring reports were approved by the Executive Committee, authorising the necessary adjustments to the budget throughout the year.
- 1.5 Most recent communications from Scottish Government indicate that pay negotiations require Councils to fund 3% pay increases for all staff groups for 2023/24 on a permanent basis. The Council budgeted for a 2% pay increase which leaves a 1% gap. A 1% increase in pay for all staff groups will require around £1.8m additional funding. On this basis the £1.532m

2022/23 revenue underspend will be ring-fenced within the Council's General Fund balance as a contribution towards pay pressures in 2023/24.

- 1.6 As previously reported, there were significantly more savings delivered permanently in 2022/23 when compared to 2021/22. The level of savings required by the financial plan, totalled £12.027m in 2022/23. An analysis of delivery of savings is provided in Appendix 3. The outturn position shows that £8.934m (74%) savings were delivered permanently in line with approved plans with the remaining £3.093m (26%) delivered on a temporary basis through alternative savings.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee:-

- a) Agrees the content of this report and notes the favourable outturn position for 2022/23 prior to Statutory Audit;**
- b) Approves the ring-fencing of £1.532m 2022/23 revenue underspend within the Council's General Fund balance to provide for 2023/24 pay pressures;**
- c) Notes that this draft unaudited outturn position will inform the budgetary control process during 2023/24 and inform the financial planning process for future years; and**
- d) Approves the sums earmarked under delegated authority by the Acting Chief Financial Officer as well as adjustments to previously approved earmarked balances as shown in Appendix 1.**

3 FINAL OUTTURN STATEMENT

- 3.1 This report provides a statement comparing final revenue outturn expenditure and income for 2022/23 with the final approved budget for the year along with explanations for significant variances.
- 3.2 A net, unaudited outturn underspend of £1.532m was achieved in the 2022/23 revenue budget. The £1.532m net underspend (less than 0.5% of final approved budget) was delivered following a number of earmarked balances being carried forward from 2022/23 into 2023/24. In total, these amount to £31.142m and relate to a number of initiatives across the Council and specifically include £1.187m of carry forward into the Council's Recovery Fund and £3.589m of carry forward by schools under the Devolved School Management scheme (DSM). Council services have delivered an underspend position whilst delivering significant financial plan savings totalling £12.027m. A high level summary of the outturn position in each Service is detailed from section 4 of this report.
- 3.3 During 2022/23 detailed revenue monitoring reports were reviewed by CMT, allowing proactive corporate management action to be taken during the year where required. In line with Financial Regulations quarterly monitoring reports were approved by the Executive Committee, authorising the necessary adjustments to the budget throughout the year.
- 3.4 The Council's finances and operating model have continued to be affected by the COVID-19 recovery period during 2022/23. Unprecedented market conditions and inflationary pressures, pressures from pay award and staff recruitment and retention challenges have also continued to impact. These financial challenges have resulted in a total draw down of £10.591m from the Recovery Fund during the year.
- 3.5 In 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years, Scottish Government funded Health & Social Care (H&SC) COVID-19 pressures through a Local Mobilisation Plan (LMP) for Integration Joint Board (IJB) functions. This process continued into 2022/23. The H&SC Partnership received written communication from Scottish Government during 2022/23, confirming that any unspent IJB reserves held at that point were required to be returned to Scottish Government. Confirmed COVID-19 spend to month 8 was funded at that stage with a reconciliation exercise between the Month 8 position and final outturn planned for early in financial year 2023/24. On this basis the Council continues to assume that the full IJB COVID-19 cost of £2.088m in 2022/23 will be funded through these means.
- 3.6 In summary as shown in the table below, £0.225m was received from the Scottish Government during 2022/23 which coupled with the Recovery Fund of £9.465m and IJB funding of £2.088m gave total resources of £11.778m in 2022/23. £10.591m of this funding has been spent in 2022/23 with the balance of £1.187m being carried forward into 2023/24 through the Recovery Fund. Elements of the carry forward have already been committed in 2023/24 with the remainder available to support the Council and its partners during the next financial year. Full details of projected impacts and funding available in 2023/24 will be provided through the first

2023/24 monitoring report to the Executive Committee based on June 2023 month end.

Confirmed Recovery Fund funding – 2022/23	£m
Funding provided by Scottish Government during 2022/23	0.225
Reserve carried forward from 2021/22 underspend	9.465
IJB funding through Local Mobilisation Plan	2.088
Total COVID-19 funding	11.778

3.7 The outturn position now confirms additional expenditure and impacts on income in 2022/23 of £10.591m as shown below.

Budget Pressure	£m	Comment
Additional costs	1.135	These additional costs include PPE, cleaning materials and includes the distribution of additional Scottish Government funding to support those facing financial hardship
Education recovery	0.400	Specific Scottish Government funding to support education recovery
IJB Local Mobilisation Plan (LMP)	2.088	Budget claimed through Scottish Government to fund ongoing COVID-19 pressures in IJB services
Service Pressures	3.723	Net service pressures in 2022/23 including external residential placements, Integrated Joint Board costs, school transport and IT costs.
Inflation Pressures	3.245	Inflation costs relating to utilities and fuel, fuel grants given to transport operators
Total pressures	10.591	

3.8 The funding of the 2022/23 costs is detailed below.

Funding	£m	Comment
Scottish Government funding (SG) provided in 2022/23	0.225	Scottish Government funding provided in 2022/23
Reserve carried forward from 2021/22	8.278	Council funding provided from reserve created and carried forward from 2021/22
Integration Joint Board (IJB) funding provided through Local Mobilisation Plan (LMP)	2.088	Confirmed funding from Scottish Government for IJB pressures from COVID-19 reflecting final Local Mobilisation Plan (LMP) claim
Total funding required in 2022/23	10.591	

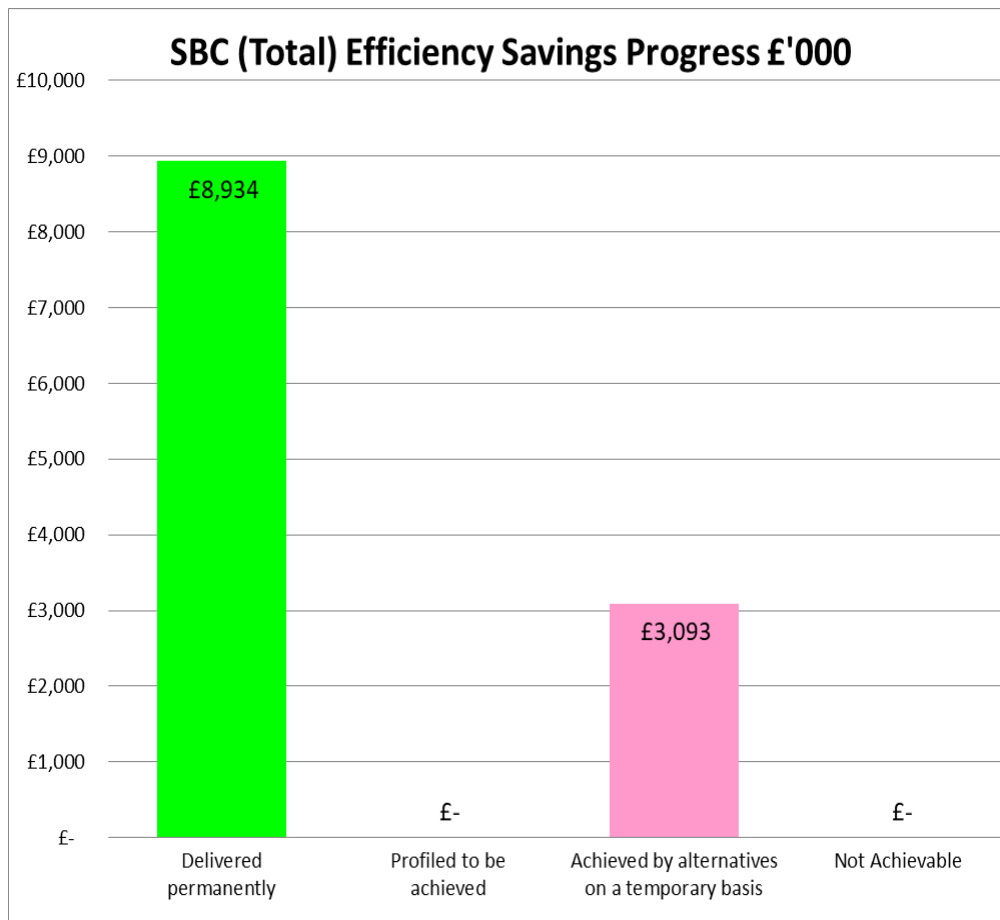
3.9 Unprecedented market conditions and inflationary pressures have continued to impact both the Council and its key contractors during 2022/23. Associated pressures have been funded in the overall 2022/23 outturn position. Many of these pressures are continuing into 2023/24 with further support from the Council being requested by contractors in these challenging market conditions.

3.10 An agreement for pay award for all staffing groups was reached for 2022/23, this has been fully funded in year and has been provided for permanently in the base budget from 2023/24. Pay award for teaching staff has been agreed for 2023/24. The agreed 5% pay award from 1 April 2023 with a further 2% increase from January 2024 has been funded by Scottish Government but assumes Councils will contribute 3% to this increase. Negotiations for 2023/24 continue for SJC and Chief Officials.

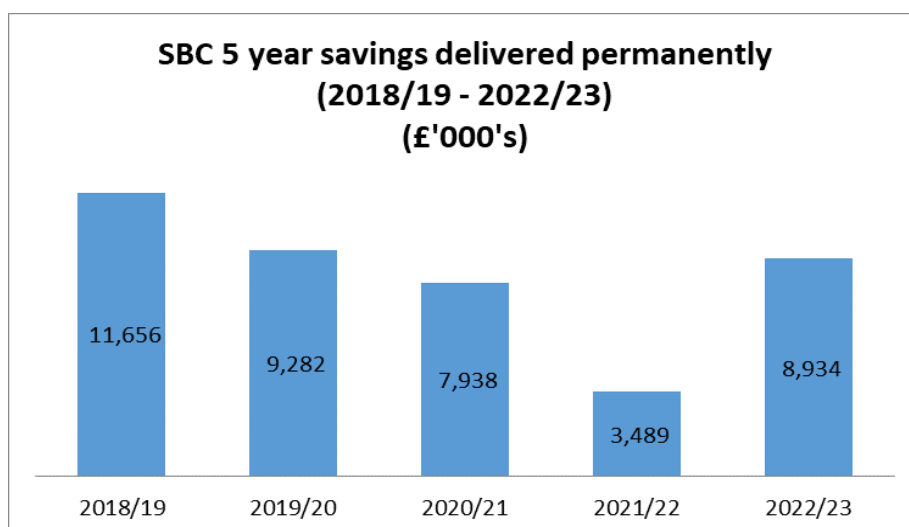
3.11 An assumed 2% pay award across all staff groups was budgeted for 2023/24. Most recent communications from Scottish Government indicate that negotiations assume Councils will fund 3% pay increases for all staff groups for 2023/24 on a permanent basis, in line with the agreement for teachers. A 1% increase in pay for all staff groups will require around £1.8m additional funding. On this basis the £1.532m 2022/23 revenue underspend will be ring-fenced within the Council's General Fund balance as a contribution towards pay pressures in 2023/24. Depending on the timing of the pay agreement this sum may be sufficient to cover 2023/24 costs on a one-off basis as payment will be made on occupied posts and not on the full staffing establishment. The permanent budget implications will require to be addressed through the 2024/25 financial planning process.

3.12 The outturn position for 2022/23 provides the basis to inform 2023/24 forecasting. The 2022/23 outturn information will be used to inform and influence the monitoring of the 2023/24 revenue budget and the 2024/25 financial planning process.

3.13 As previously reported, there were significantly more savings delivered permanently in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22. The level of savings required by the financial plan, totalled £12.027m in 2022/23. An analysis of delivery of savings is provided in Appendix 3. The outturn position shows that £8.934m (74%) savings were delivered permanently in line with approved plans with the remaining £3.093m (26%) delivered on a temporary basis through alternative savings.



3.14 Particular emphasis is being placed by the CMT, during the early part of 2023/24, on the permanent delivery of savings delivered temporarily in 2022/22. The graph below highlights the continuing scale of savings being delivered within the Council on an ongoing basis with a further £12.027m being delivered in 2022/23, £8.9m permanently. £3.5m of savings were delivered on a permanent basis in 2021/22, £7.9m in 2020/21, £9.3m in 2019/20 and £11.7m in 2018/19. This demonstrates the scale of change undertaken within the Council over the last 5 years with permanent savings delivered since 2018/19 totalling £41.3m. Since 2013/14 the Council has achieved permanent, recurring savings of £79m.



4 SERVICE ANALYSIS

4.1 A high level summary of the outturn position in each Council service is shown below. The detailed outturn statement for the 2022/23 revenue budget is shown in Appendix 1.

4.2 Infrastructure & Environment Favourable £1.14m

Infrastructure & Environment have delivered a net favourable position of £1.140m. Included within this position is an underspend within Temporary Accommodation as a result of increased income, this income is paid out in the form of Housing Benefit and therefore a compensating overspend is seen within Resilient Communities. An underspend in Catering is also offsetting a compensating pressure within School Meals in Education & Lifelong Learning. The net position for I&E is therefore an underspend of £0.868m which is primarily being driven by an increased surplus within SBc Contracts as a result of increased gross profit and reduced plant & vehicle costs, staff savings and additional income across the service allowing the service to cover the cost of an above average winter period.

4.3 Social Work & Practice and Public Health Favourable £0.479m

Social Work & Practice has delivered a net favourable position of £0.479m during 2022/23 with Public Health presenting a balanced position against £0.094m budget. The key areas of underspend in the final quarter are in Older People £0.188m, People with Physical Disabilities £0.112m and Joint Mental Health Services £0.142m. These variances have all resulted from lower than anticipated client specific care and extra care housing costs. The final outturn position for the Learning Disability Service was a £0.025m underspend against the most recently approved budget, however, this was an overspend of £1.2m against base budget. This is an improved position compared to a £1.7m overspend in 2021/22. Lower than anticipated staffing costs in Generic Services due to ongoing vacancies contributed to an underspend of £0.102m. Similarly, vacancies in the Community Access Policing Teams within Safer Communities budgets resulted in lower staffing costs and reduced cover generated an underspend of £0.067m. Children &

Families Social Work reported an overspend of £0.217m against the most recently approved budget, however this was also an overspend of £3.022m against base budget and is due to increasing costs for Out of Area placements. The 2023/24 budget has addressed some of this budget shortfall, however, work within the service will be required in 2023/24 to ensure the service remains within budget.

4.4 Education & Lifelong Learning Adverse £0.058m

Education & Lifelong Learning has delivered a net adverse position of £0.058m. A further £1.537m was earmarked in respect of ring fenced Early Years funding taking the total carry forward to £5.223m an element of which will be used to offset the reduction in funding of £1.700m in 2023/24 allowing time for the remodelling of the service. Work on the revised DSM scheme for Primary & Secondary schools was completed and successfully implemented in August 2022. A smaller than anticipated amount of £0.047m was required to be drawn down from the Workforce Management Reserve to fund salary conservation in 2022/23. DSM and PEF carry forwards across Primary & Secondary schools have increased by £0.601m to a total carry forward of £3.589m. Non DSM underspend in Primary and Secondary schools of £0.412m was utilised to offset the pressure in Additional Support Needs of £0.443m. Lower than anticipated take up of Under22 free bus travel has resulted in a higher than anticipated cost of scholars passes significantly contributing to the pressure of £0.119m in school transport.

4.5 Resilient Communities Adverse £0.016m

Resilient Communities have delivered a net adverse position of £0.016m. Included within this position is an overspend within Housing Benefits as a result of an increased level of Housing Benefit being paid to people in temporary accommodation, the Council then receives this back again through income within Temporary Accommodation and therefore a compensating underspend is seen within Infrastructure & Environment. The net position is therefore an underspend of £0.206m which is primarily being achieved through staff savings, additional income and discretionary spend savings which are offsetting a pressure within Scottish Welfare Fund where an increased demand on this service is being seen.

4.6 Finance & Corporate Governance Favourable £0.206m

Finance & Corporate Governance have delivered a net favourable position of £0.206m. This has been achieved through additional staff turnover and discretionary spends savings which have offset additional election expenses and reduced income within Licencing.

4.7 People, Performance & Change Favourable £0.223m

People, Performance and Change have delivered a net favourable position of £0.223m. This has been achieved through additional staff turnover, additional income and discretionary spend savings across the service.

4.8 Strategic Commissioning & Partnerships Adverse £0.505m

Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships have delivered a net adverse position of £0.505m. This is from Information Technology being £0.509m over budget due to increased service charges and mobile telephony costs following the implementation of Pathfinder and Total Mobile, these pressures will be offset going forward from savings generated within the services as a result of the roll-out. SB Cares and Commissioning contributed a net £0.004m underspend toward this position.

4.9 Funding Favourable £0.063m

A favourable outturn position was delivered within Council funding as a result of additional Council Tax income of £0.063m (0.09% of approved budget).

4.10 Year end position

The favourable outturn position reported is subject to the statutory audit process. As detailed above, the £1.532m 2022/23 underspend will be ring-fenced within the Council's General Fund balance as a contribution towards pay pressures in 2023/24. This pressure will require to be permanently addressed through the 2024/25 financial planning process.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report, its content being specifically related to the performance of the revenue budget in 2022/23.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The final favourable outturn position reported is subject to the external audit process. Additionally, the temporary achievement of £3.093m of planned efficiency savings will require to be addressed on a permanent and recurrent basis in 2023/24.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

It is anticipated there will be no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

There are no significant effects on the economy, community or environment. The maintenance of appropriate reserve balances supports the Council's ongoing financial sustainability and ability to respond to unforeseen circumstances.

5.5 Climate Change

No effect on carbon emissions are anticipated from the recommendation of this report.

5.6 Rural Proofing

It is anticipated there will be no adverse impact on the rural area from the proposals contained in this report.

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to the Schemes of Administration or Delegation as a result of this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications are being consulted on this report and any comments received will be incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Suzy Douglas
Acting Chief Financial Officer

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Suzy Douglas	Acting Chief Financial Officer (X5881)

Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference:

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

Contact us at: Suzy Douglas, sdouglas@scotborders.gov.uk

MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL **2022/23**
SUMMARY



	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Infrastructure & Environment	50,466	49,173	1,293	(153)	1,140	An underspend of £1.140m is being reported. Included in this position is an underspend in Temporary Accommodation which is offset by a compensating pressure in Resilient Communities and an underspend in Catering offset by a compensating pressure within Education and Lifelong Services. The net position is therefore an underspend of £868k. This is primarily driven from an increased surplus within SBcContracts as a result of increased gross profit and reduced plant & vehicle costs, additional income across the service and staff turnover. This has allowed the service to cover the cost of an above average winter period.
Social Work & Practice	67,712	67,195	517	(38)	479	An underspend of £479k is being reported. Included in this position is an overspend of £217k in Children & Families Social Work due to an increase on out of area placement costs which is offset by underspends in Child Protection and Generic Services due to vacancies along with resourcing issues in Safer Communities. There were also underspends in Older People, Joint Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and People with Physical Disabilities due to additional budget allocated during 2022/23 not being required at outturn due to lower than expected client demand. adult protection contributed through lower than budgeted external agency costs.
Education & Lifelong Learning	110,569	108,474	2,095	(2,153)	(58)	Education & Lifelong Learning had a pressure of £58k at outturn, £50k of which related to school meals which is offset by an underspend in Infrastructure & Environment (Catering). The other areas of the service account for the remaining £8k pressure with Primary & Secondary School non DSM underspends contributing £412k towards the pressure in Additional Support Needs. The underspend in Central Schools contributed the remaining £31k as well as covering the majority of the pressure in School Transport.
Resilient Communities	34,984	35,212	(228)	212	(16)	A small pressure of £16k is being reported. Included within this position is an overspend within Housing Benefit which is offset by a compensating underspend within Infrastructure & Environment. The net position is therefore an underspend of £206k which is primarily as a result of savings within staffing, discretionary spend and income which are offsetting a pressure within Scottish Welfare Fund where an increased demand on this service is being seen.
Finance & Corporate Governance	28,869	28,167	702	(496)	206	An underspend of £206k is being reported primarily due to additional staff turnover and discretionary spend savings which are offsetting additional election expenses and a shortfall in income within Licensing.

MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL **2022/23**
SUMMARY



	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
People, Performance and Change	7,632	7,413	218	5	223	An underspend of £223k is being reported primarily due to additional staff turnover, additional income and discretionary spend savings.
Strategic Commissioning & Partnership	27,293	27,798	(505)	0	(505)	A pressure of £505k is being reported primarily due to increased service charges and mobile telephony costs following the implementation of Pathfinder and Total Mobile within Information Technology.
Total	327,525	323,433	4,092	(2,624)	1,469	

Financed by:

Revenue Support Grant	(216,297)	(216,297)	0		0	
Non-Domestic Rates	(35,294)	(35,294)	0		0	
Council Tax	(67,909)	(67,972)	63		63	
Second Homes Council Tax	(1,193)	(1,193)	0		0	
Capital Financed from Current Revenue	430	430	0		0	
Reserves:						
Earmarked Balances from 2021/22	(37,189)	(37,189)	0		0	
Earmarked Balances for future years	29,254	31,142	(1,888)	1,888	0	Adjustment to earmark balance for i) Small Schemes (£143k); ii) Neighbourhood Support Fund, including Financial Insecurity and Cost of Living Support (£212k); iii) Community Engagement Fund (£95k); and iv) Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (£14k). To increase earmarking for i) Second Homes Council Tax (£126k); ii) Primary DSM (£580k); iii) Secondary DSM (£21k); iv) Early Years 1140 hours (£1,537k); v) Schools Covid-19 (£23k); vi) Recovery Fund (£27k); and vii) CCTV Members Priority (£38k).
Transfers to/from Reserves	673	1,409	(736)	736	0	Drawdown from Workforce Management Allocated Reserve for Early Retirement/Voluntary Severance and salary conservation pressure due to impact of teachers pay award (£5k & £8k respectively). Increase in Allocated Reserves for i) Treasury Reserve (£469k); and ii) Strategic Contract movement reserve (£280k).
Total	(327,525)	(324,965)	(2,560)	2,624	63	

Total	0	(1,532)	1,532	0	1,532	
--------------	----------	----------------	--------------	----------	--------------	--

Page 50

MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 2022/23



Infrastructure & Environment	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Property	14,272	13,936	336		336	
Property Management Services	14,721	14,435	286		286	Additional temporary accommodation rental income (£222k) linked to the related pressure within Housing Benefits in Resilient Communities. Pressure in Property Maintenance (£338k) offset by underspend in Corporate Landlord (£380k) and furniture within Temporary Accommodation (£22k)
Estates Management Services	542	480	63		63	Underspends in consultancy and hired and contracted costs (£52k), staffing (£7k) and discretionary spend (£4k)
Commercial Property Income	(1,333)	(1,251)	(82)		(82)	Shortfall in income due to reduced occupancy.
Architects	143	105	38		38	Additional income.
Major Projects	199	167	32		32	Underspend in feasibility
Facilities	6,569	5,996	573		573	
Catering Services	1,721	1,309	412		412	Additional income across primary and secondary schools (£169k), underspends in staffing (£113k), supplies and services (£51k), equipment (£29k) and compensating underspend to offset overspend in Education (£50k).
Cleaning & Facilities Management	4,849	4,688	161		161	Underspends within staffing (£69k) and supplies & services including materials (£92k)
Parks & Environment	5,043	4,948	94		94	
						94 Underspends in staffing (£28k), equipment (£27k) and premises costs (£8k). Additional burials income (£31k)
Roads & Infrastructure	10,980	11,282	(303)	143	(160)	
Network & Infrastructure Asset Management	10,649	11,539	(890)	143	(747)	Pressure within winter maintenance (£491k) as a result of more severe winter weather. Increased works costs across the roads service primarily as a result of additional reactive costs and increased labour costs (£256k). Adjustment to earmark balance for Small Schemes to meet increased activity and expenditure in 2022/23 (£143k).
SBcContracts	(711)	(1,299)	588		588	Increased profit on jobs due to the nature of works undertaken & reduced staff turnover and sickness (£401k). reduced vehicle repairs and maintenance costs (£187k)
Engineers	937	908	29		29	Additional income.

MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 2022/23



Infrastructure & Environment	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Fleet Management Services	107	137	(30)		(30)	Materials pressure.
Pay Parking	(2)	(2)	(0)		(0)	
Waste Management Services	9,756	9,397	359	(280)	79	Transfer available budget to Strategic Contract movement reserve (£280k). Additional income.
Passenger Transport	2,070	2,030	40		40	Demand Responsive Transport pilot underspend
Planning Services	949	897	52	95	147	Adjustment to earmark balance for Community Engagement Fund to meet increased activity and expenditure in 2022/23 (£95k). Additional planning fees (£147k).
Housing Strategy & Services	827	686	140	(111)	29	Adjustment to earmark balance for Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy to meet increased expenditure in 2022/23 (£14k). To earmark Second Homes Council Tax budget into 2023/24 to support future investment in affordable housing (£125.5k). Staffing underspends (£29k).
Total	50,466	49,173	1,293	(153)	1,140	

Key Highlights, Challenges and Risks

Infrastructure & Environment have delivered an underspend of £1.140m, £0.222m of this this underspend is offset by a compensating pressure within Housing Benefit in Resilient Communities and £0.050m is offset by a compensating pressure within School Meals in Education & Lifelong Learning.

The net position to the is therefore a net underspend of £0.868m. This underspend is primarily driven by increased income across a number of service areas including Planning, Catering and Waste Management Services, additional staff turnover and additional surplus delivered by SBcContracts as a result of increased profit from delivery of additional works to forecast and increased margin due to the mix of works alongside reduced vehicle maintenance costs which is

MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL **2022/23**



Social Work & Practice	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Child Protection	208	181	27		27	Underspend due to a vacancy (Team Leader).
Children & Families Social Work	18,220	18,437	(217)		(217)	Increase in out of area placement costs, specifically relating to one new placement in January, one care placement transferring to secure accommodation and also extensions to placements that were forecast to finish prior to the 31st March. (Was £240k in March Monitoring).
Adult Protection	350	324	26		26	Underspend relates to lower than budgeted external agency costs.
Emergency Duty Team	380	375	5		5	
Quality Improvement	426	426	0		0	
Services in Criminal Justice System	0	0	(0)		(0)	
Safer Communities	2,230	2,125	105	(38)	67	To earmark funding into 2023/24 for CCTV members priority (£38k). Community Policing expenditure less than forecast due to resourcing issue.
Older People	11,803	11,614	188		188	Extra Care Housing - £141k underspend (£44k-Longfield, £54k-Wilkie Gardens, £43k-Dovecot), less than projected due to client demand.
Joint Learning Disability	21,129	21,104	25		25	Small amount of additional budget allocated during 2022/23 was found not to be required at outturn.
Joint Mental Health	2,140	1,998	142		142	Majority of additional budget allocated during 2022/23 based on projected client demand was found not to be required at outturn due to lower than expected client demand.
People with Physical Disabilities	2,698	2,586	112		112	Half of additional budget allocated during 2022/23 based on projected client demand was found not to be required at outturn due to lower than expected client demand.
Generic Services	8,033	7,931	102		102	Vacancies underspend.
Total	67,617	67,101	517	(38)	479	

MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 2022/23



Public Health	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Public Health	94	95	(0)		(0)	
Total	94	95	(0)	0	(0)	

Key Highlights, Challenges and Risks

An underspend of £479k is being reported. Included in this position is an overspend of £217k in Children & Families Social Work due to an increase on out of area placement costs which is offset by underspends in Child Protection and Generic Services due to vacancies along with resourcing issues in Safer Communities. There were also underspends in Older People, Joint Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and People with Physical Disabilities due to additional budget allocated during 2022/23 not being required at outturn due to lower than expected client demand. adult protection contributed through lower than budgeted external agency costs. The service had £1.175m of financial plan savings to deliver in 2022/23, £0.860m of these have been delivered permanently with £0.315m delivered on a temporary basis and therefore being carried forward for delivery in 2023/24.

MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL **2022/23**



Education & Lifelong Learning	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Early Years	7,219	5,681	1,537	(1,537)	(0)	Unspent ring-fenced funding earmarked for ELC 1140 hours ensuring specific grant funding is retained within the service for spend in future years. Part of this earmarking will be utilised to offset the £1.7m reduction in funding in 2023/24.
Primary Schools	33,573	32,838	735	(580)	155	As per DSM scheme, underspend earmarked along with other external funding such as PEF. Remaining balance was achieved by ensuring that only essential items were funded from the non DSM budget in order to partially cover the overspend in Additional Support Needs.
Secondary Schools	45,989	45,711	278	(21)	257	As per DSM scheme, underspend earmarked along with other external funding such as PEF. The remaining balance relates to developer contributions received in 2022/23
Additional Support Needs	11,413	11,856	(443)		(443)	Pressure caused by additional demand for support hours within schools and the additional day of annual leave per recent pay award negotiations which is paid to staff not given as a day off.
Educational Psychology	765	766	(1)		(1)	Pressure as a result of overlap between trainee qualifying and filling position of retiree
Central Schools	4,386	4,232	154	(14)	140	Drawdown from workforce reserve to cover impact of teachers pay award on salary conservation as a result of revised DSM scheme (£8k). Remainder of Covid funding released to cover pressures within other areas.
School Meals	2,043	2,093	(50)		(50)	Overspend in primary school meals is offset by an underspend in I&E (catering)
School Transport	4,187	4,306	(119)		(119)	Scholar's passes figure higher than expected due to lower than anticipated take up of U22 free bus travel.
Community Learning & Development	994	991	3		3	
Total	110,569	108,474	2,095	(2,153)	(58)	

Key Highlights Challenges & Risks

Education & Lifelong Learning had a pressure of £58k at outturn, £50k of which related to school meals which is offset by an underspend in Infrastructure & Environment (Catering). The other areas of the service account for the remaining £8k pressure with Primary & Secondary School non DSM underspends contributing £412k towards the pressure in Additional Support Needs. The underspend in Central Schools contributed the remaining £31k as well as covering the majority of the pressure in School Transport. Collaboration with the Passenger transport team will be required in 2023/24 to see if a reduction in the number of Scholar's Passes required can be achieved through targeted promotion of the U22 Free bus travel scheme.

The service has delivered the £1.642m of financial plan savings required in 2022/23.

**MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 2022/23**



Resilient Communities	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Business Support	5,382	5,359	23		23	Additional staff turnover savings.
Community Planning & Engagement	472	472	(1)		(1)	
Neighbourhood Support Fund	2,927	3,139	(212)	212	0	Adjustment to earmark balance for King's Coronation Fund (£4k), Financial Insecurity Fund (£6k), Cost of Living Support (£169k), Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund (LACER) (£1k) and Community Funds (£32k) to meet increased activity and expenditure in 2022/23.
Customer Advice & Support Services	9,310	9,257	53		53	Overpayments Recovered in March greater than last forecast.
Economic Development	2,401	2,271	130		130	Additional income (£35k), staff turnover (£65k) and available budget due to the end of the European Social Fund (ESF) during 2022/23 (£30k).
Cultural Services	3,779	3,731	49		49	Underspend in depreciation and interest.
Sports Services	2,325	2,279	46		46	Underspend in rates for Melrose 3G being funded through NDR Relief (£24k) and Jedburgh Campus management fee (£22k).
Discretionary Housing Payments	1,107	1,057	50		50	Budget allocated from Cost of Living Support not required for DHP but partly offsetting pressure in Scottish Welfare Fund (£50k).
Housing Benefits	668	927	(259)		(259)	Additional HB expenditure (£222k) linked to additional temporary accommodation rental income reported under Property Management Services in Infrastructure & Environment and overpayments recovered less than expected (£37k).
Non Domestic Rates Relief	213	216	(3)		(3)	
Scottish Welfare Fund	797	929	(132)		(132)	Demand for this service increased substantially in the last quarter with expenditure exceeding that forecast.
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	5,603	5,574	29		29	Outturn reflects continuing reduction in claims and improving outlook.
Total	34,984	35,212	(228)	212	(16)	

Key Highlights, Challenges & Risks

The service is reporting a small pressure of £0.016m, included within this is a pressure of £0.259m relating to Housing Benefits, £0.222m of this this pressure is offset by a compensating underspend within Infrastructure & Environment, Property Management Service, linked to increased Housing Benefits in Temporary Accommodation.

The net position is therefore an underspend of £0.206m which is primarily linked to reduced staffing costs, increased overpayment recovery, additional income and discretionary spend savings. These underspends are offsetting an overspend within the Scottish Welfare Fund where we are continuing to see an increased demand for this service, linked to the continuing cost of living crisis.

The service had £0.380m of financial plan savings to deliver in 2022/23, £0.214m of these have been delivered permanently and £0.166m delivered temporarily and therefore being carried forward for delivery in 2023/24.

MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 2022/23



Finance & Corporate Governance	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Recovery Fund	646	619	27	(27)	0	Return unused drawdown of funding for SBContracts Covid-19 absences to Recovery Fund Reserve.
Chief Executive	119	120	(1)		(1)	
Emergency Planning	219	212	7		7	
Finance	4,162	4,110	52		52	Staff turnover savings.
Legal Services	761	803	(42)		(42)	Shortfall in taxi and alcohol licensing fees (£38k) and additional pressure as a result of legal expenses relating to historic child abuse cases (£4k).
Protective Services	1,660	1,509	151		151	Significant staff turnover savings as a result of recruitment difficulties.
Audit & Risk	370	368	2		2	
Assessor & Electoral Registration Services	936	906	30		30	Staff turnover (£7k) and discretionary spend (£23k) savings.
Democratic Services	2,132	2,161	(29)		(29)	Election income accrual pressure following review and feedback on expenses claimed.
Communications & Marketing	548	519	29		29	Staff turnover (£8k) and discretionary spend (£21k) savings.
Loan Charges	17,802	17,333	469	(469)	0	Reduced borrowing requirement due to timing movements in the capital programme to be transferred to Treasury Reserve to smooth capital financing requirements in future years (£469k).
Provision for Bad Debts	125	125	0		0	
Recharge to Non-General Fund	(608)	(616)	8		8	
Total	28,869	28,167	702	(496)	206	

Key Highlights, Challenges & Risks

The service is reporting an underspend of £0.206m this is primarily from staffing underspends and discretionary spend savings which are offsetting some additional expenses related to elections and income pressures within Licensing. Reduced borrowing requirements allows £0.469m to be transferred to the Treasury Reserve to smooth capital financing requirements in future years. The service had £3.477 of financial plan savings to deliver in 2022/23, £3.367m of these have been delivered permanently, £0.110 delivered on a temporary basis and therefore being carried forward for delivery in 2023/24.

MONTHLY REVENUE MANAGEMENT REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 2022/23



People, Performance & Change	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Human Resources	4,977	4,837	140		140	Additional income (£23k), staff turnover savings (£45k), increased salary sacrifice scheme benefit contributions (£16k) and underspends in medical fees, training and conference expenses (£56k).
Early Retiral/Voluntary Severance	184	189	(5)	5	0	Drawdown from Workforce Management Allocated Reserve (£5k).
Corporate Transformation	740	684	55		55	Managed underspends, some commitments forecast no longer required or carried forward into 2023/24.
Business Change & Programme Management	1,294	1,292	2		2	
Business Planning Performance & Policy Development	437	411	26		26	Additional income and discretionary spend savings.
Total	7,632	7,413	218	5	223	

Key Highlights, Challenges & Risks

The service is reporting an underspend of £0.223m primarily from staff savings, discretionary spend and additional income.
 The service had £0.190m of financial plan savings to deliver in 2022/23, £0.112m of these have been delivered permanently with £0.078m delivered on a temporary basis and therefore being carried forward for delivery in 2023/24.

Strategic Commissioning & Partnerships	Final Approved Budget (£'000)	Final Outturn Actual (£'000)	Variance pre adjustments (£'000)	Decrease/ (Increase) to Balances (£'000)	Variance against final adjusted Budget (£'000)	Summary Financial Commentary
Information Technology	8,661	9,170	(509)		(509)	Increased service charges and pressure in mobile telephony following the implementation of Pathfinder and Total Mobile. As per the approved business cases, these pressures will be offset going forward from savings generated within the services as a result of the roll-out.
SB Cares	18,490	18,487	3		3	
Commissioning	142	140	1		1	
Total	27,293	27,798	(505)	0	(505)	

Key Highlights, Challenges & Risks

Strategic Commissioning & Partnerships is reporting a pressure of £0.505m at outturn. Increased service charges due to volumetrics and increased mobile telephony costs following the implementation of Pathfinder and Total Mobile, savings generated within the services will offset the pressures going forward.
The service had £2.671m of financial plan savings to deliver in 2022/23, £1.283m of these have been delivered permanently with £1.388m delivered on a temporary basis and therefore being carried forward for delivery in 2023/24.

This page is intentionally left blank

Details	Amount
Reserve carried forward from 2021/22	8,012,831
Administration grant carried forward 2021/22	1,052,610
Education recovery	400,000
COVID-19 response and recovery	69,000
Schools ventilation fund	102,000
Nightclub Closure Fund - admin. costs	5,400
Taxi and Private Hire - admin. costs	12,000
Scottish Child Payment Bridging Payments - admin. funding	18,946
Business grant 'repayments'	17,500
Assumed IJB funding through the LMP	2,088,000

Ring-fenced				Flexible	Assumed IJB funding through LMP	Financial Plan
Admin.	Education Recovery	Individuals/ Families/ Communities	Self Isolation			
				8,012,831		
1,052,610						
	400,000					
						69,000
	102,000					
5,400						
12,000						
18,946						
17,500						
					2,088,000	

11,778,287

1,106,456 502,000 0 0 8,012,831 2,088,000 69,000

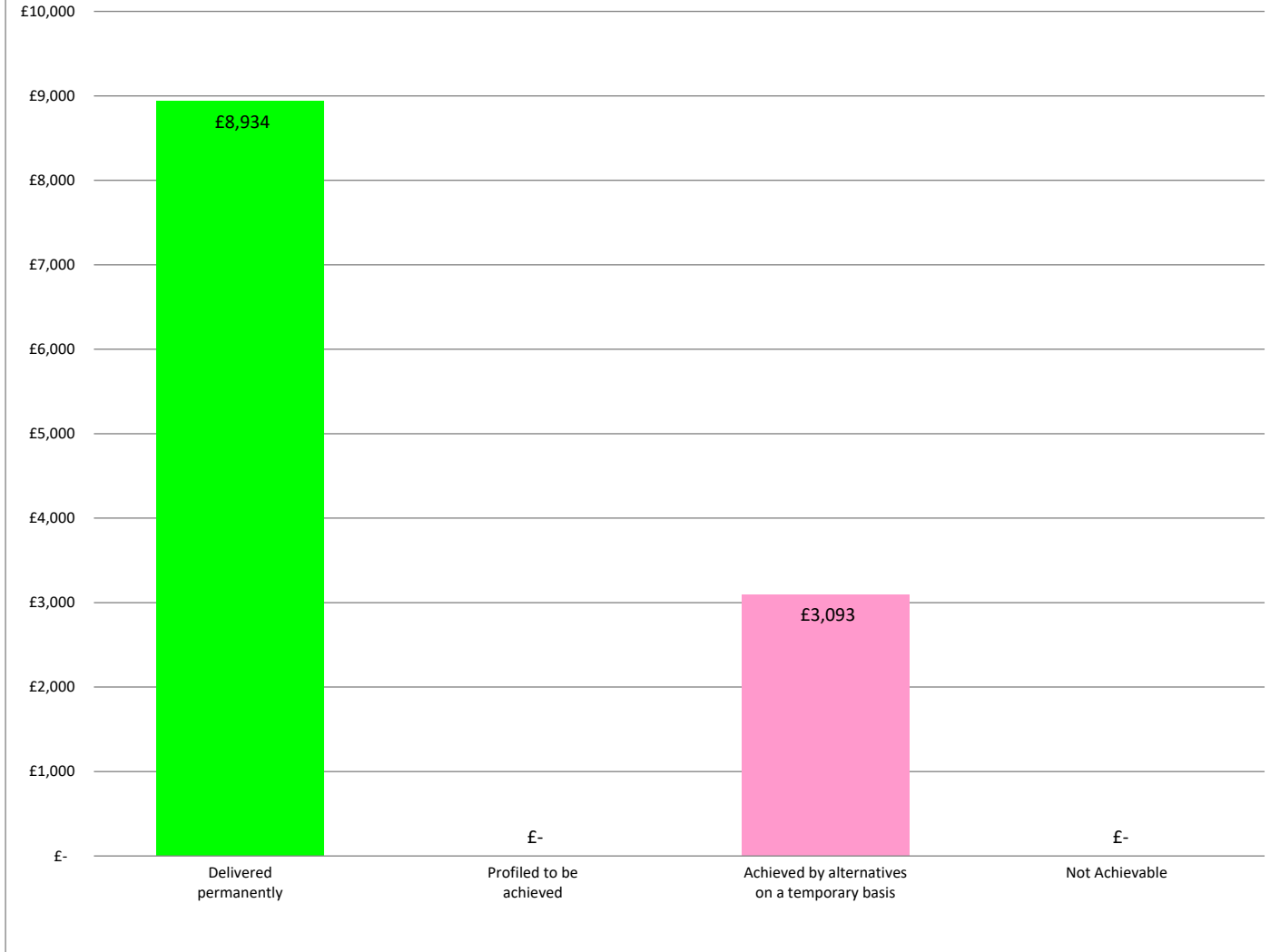
This page is intentionally left blank

FINANCIAL PLAN EFFICIENCY PROGRESS 2022/23

SBC Total

Status	Saving £'000	Saving %
Delivered permanently	£ 8,934	74%
Profiled to be achieved	£ -	0%
Achieved by alternatives on a temporary basis	£ 3,093	26%
Not Achievable	£ -	0%
	12,027	100%

SBC (Total) Efficiency Savings Progress £'000

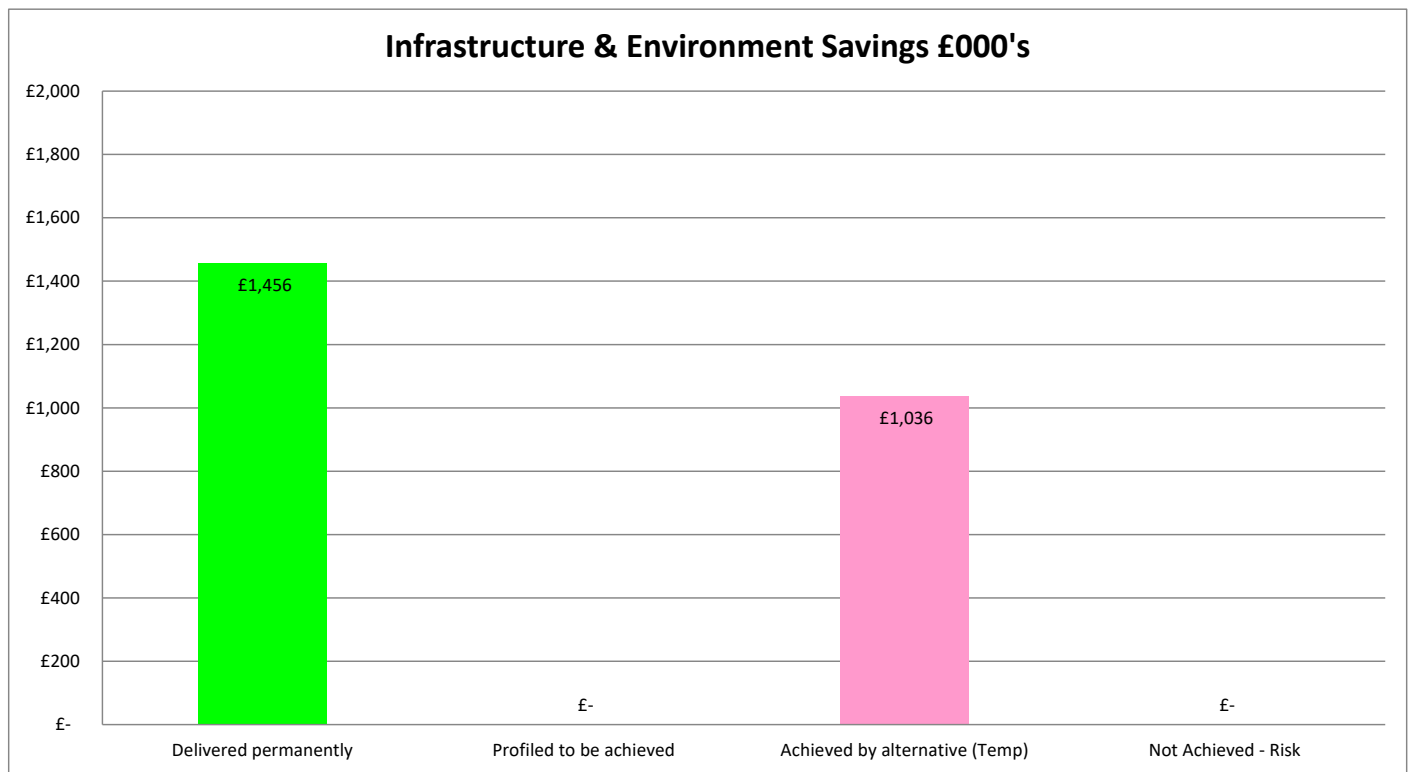


FINANCIAL PLAN EFFICIENCY PROGRESS 2022/23

Infrastructure & Environment

Savings :

	£'000	Delivered Permanently	Profiled to be achieved	Achieved by alternatives on a temporary basis	Not Achievable
Brought Forward Savings					
New delivery model for Public Toilet provision	46	46	0	0	
Facilities Management savings	261	261			
Energy Efficiency Project	27		0	27	
More efficient property and asset portfolio and implementation of Corporate Landlord	215	169	0	46	
Parks & Environment	106	106		0	
Waste Management	15			15	
2022/23 Savings:					
Additional Fees & Charges Income across Infrastructure & Environment	103	103			
Statutory Planning Fee Income	40	40			
Commercial Rent income	10	10			
Energy Efficiency Project	75		0	75	
More efficient property and asset portfolio & implementation of Corporate Landlord	217	11	0	206	
Facilities Management savings	183	183		0	
Parks & Environment	211	24		187	
Roads & Infrastructure	500	324	0	176	
Waste Management	195	105		90	
Passenger Transport	200	30	0	170	
Planning Services	44			44	
Post-COVID-19 operating model	44	44			
	2,492	1,456	0	1,036	0

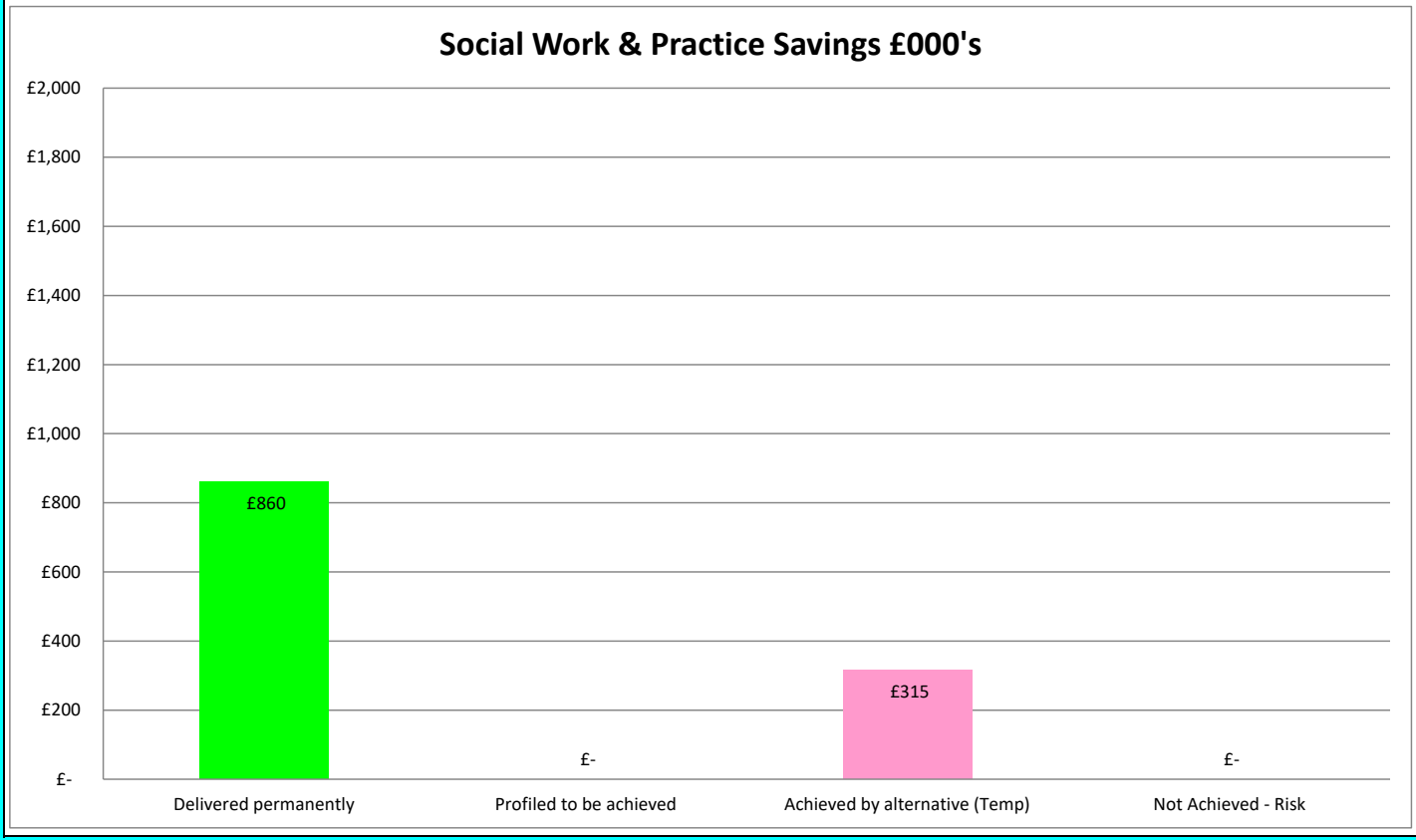


FINANCIAL PLAN EFFICIENCY PROGRESS 2022/23

Social Work & Practice

Savings :

	£'000	Delivered Permanently	Profiled to be achieved	Achieved by alternatives on a temporary basis	Not Achievable
Brought Forward Savings					
Review of Care Packages (OP)	60	60			
Review of Care Packages (LD)	200	40	0	160	
Trusted Assessment (OP and LD)	50		0	50	
Shared Lives	100	100	0	0	
Single Handed Care (from SC&P Ent Mob)	250	250			
2022/23 Savings:					
Review of Care Packages (OP)	100	100	0		
Review of Care Packages (LD)	30		0	30	
Review of Day Care Services (LD)	75		0	75	
Hawick Community Support Service Recommissioning (LD)	80	80			
Direct Payment Recoupment	(150)	(150)			
Locality Working (OP and LD)	150	150			
Shared Lives	200	200	0	0	
Post-COVID-19 operating model	13	13			
Safer Communities - Homeless Service	13	13			
Additional Fees & Charges	4	4			
	1,175	860	0	315	0



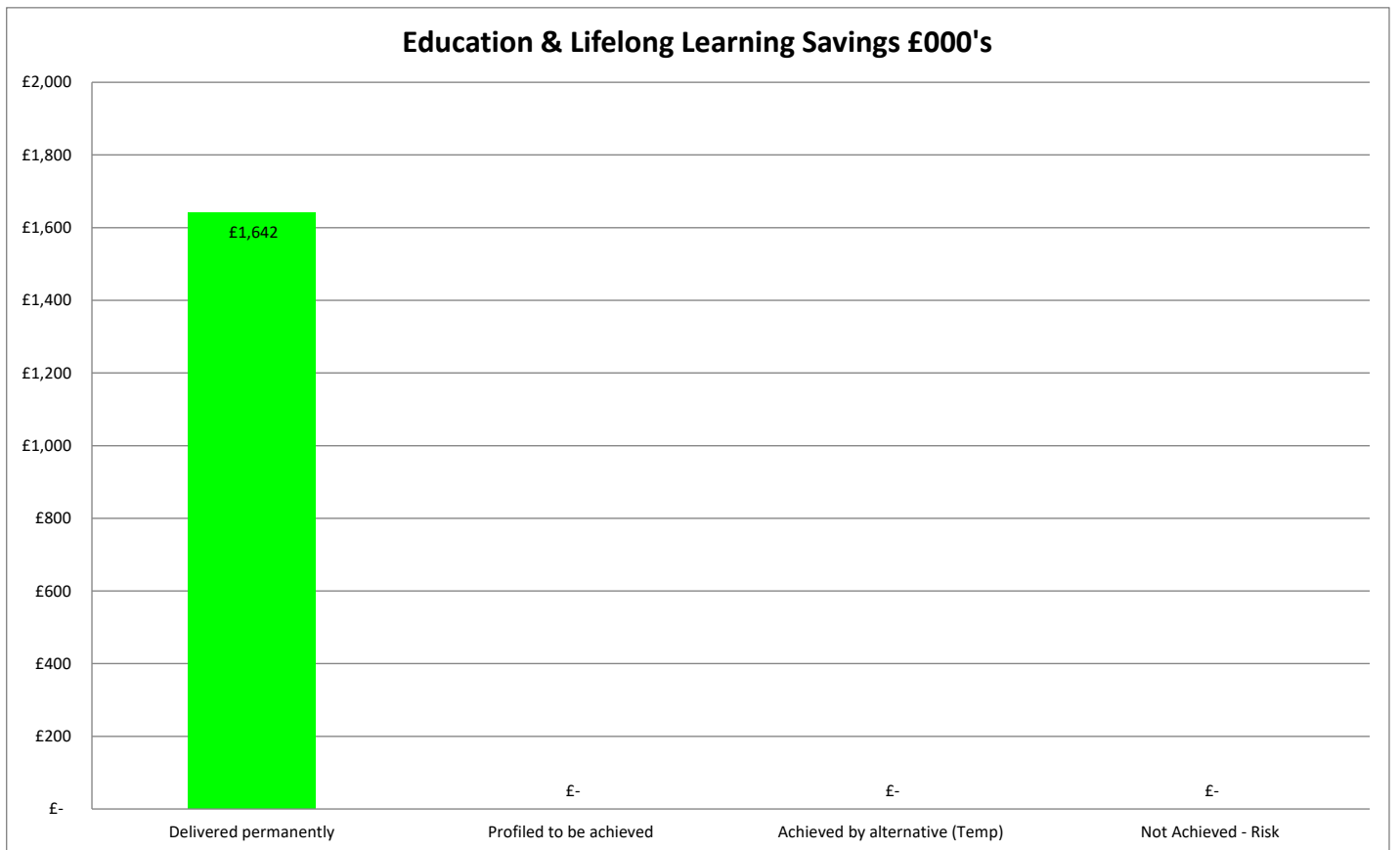
FINANCIAL PLAN EFFICIENCY PROGRESS 2022/23

Education & Lifelong Learning

Savings :

	£'000	Delivered Permanently ¹	Profiled to be achieved	Achieved by alternatives on a temporary basis	Not Achievable
Brought Forward Savings					
Central Schools - Music Tuition Review	19		19		
Primary and Secondary Schools Implementation of Revised DSM Scheme in August 2020	408		408		
Central Schools	156		156		
Community Learning & Development	35		35		
Primary and Secondary Schools Implementation of Revised DSM Scheme in August 2020	529		529		
Central Schools - review of Central Schools, Management Structures and Learning Estate Rationalisation	150		150		
Community Learning & Development - Targeted efficiencies to be delivered from the 'Communities Development Review' workstream	39		39		
			0		
2022/23 Savings:					
Increased fees & charges for Lets	6		6		
Increases to fees for non-funded childcare	16		16		
Central Schools	125		125		
School Transport	133		133		
Post-COVID-19 operating model	26		26		
			0		
		1,642	1,642	0	0
				0	0

¹assumes proposed DSM scheme approved by Executive



FINANCIAL PLAN EFFICIENCY PROGRESS 2022/23

Resilient Communities

Savings :

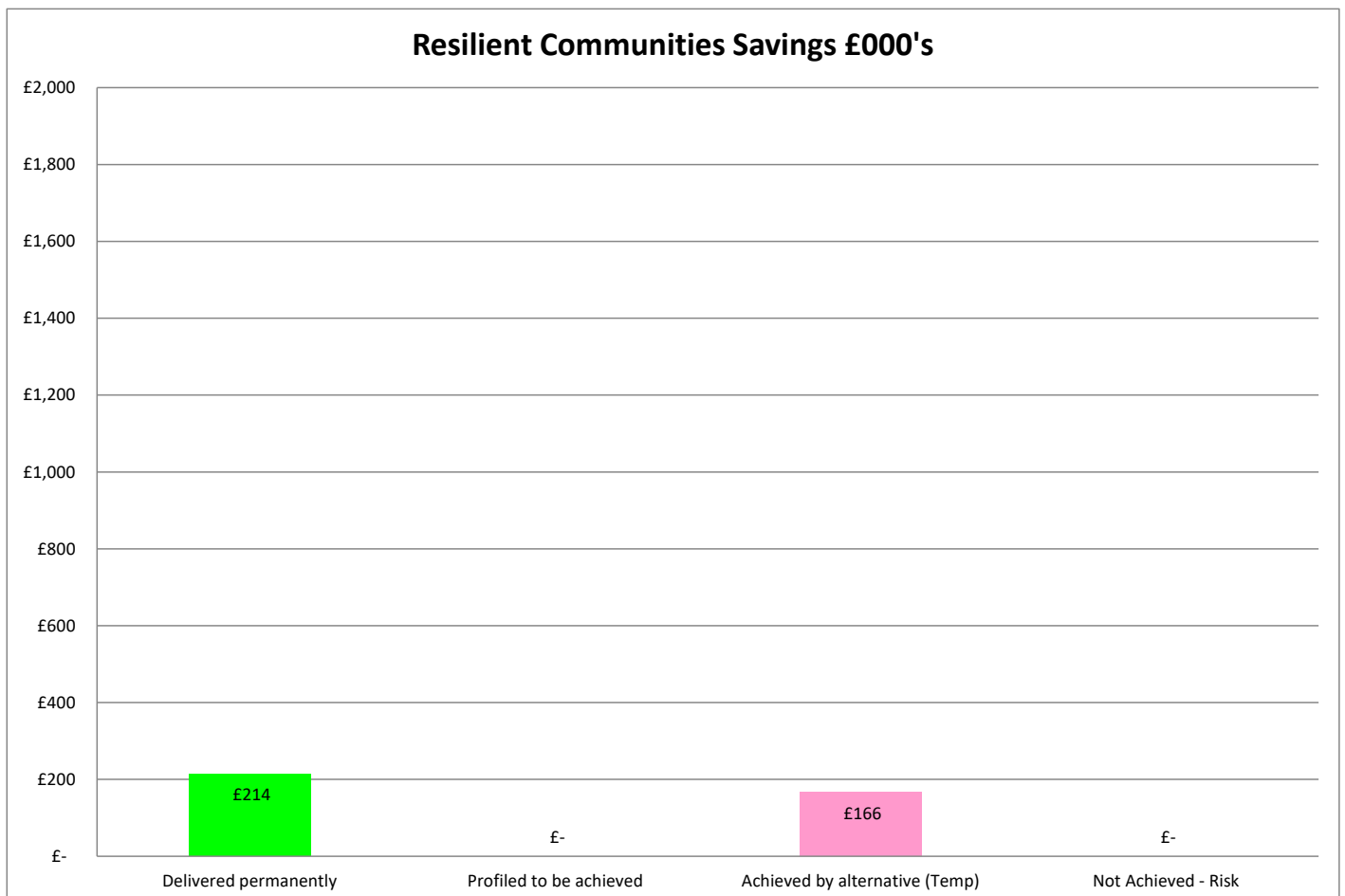
£'000

Delivered Permanently	Profiled to be achieved	Achieved by alternatives on a temporary basis	Not Achievable
-----------------------	-------------------------	---	----------------

Brought Forward Savings

2022/23 Savings:

Additional Fees and Charges	4	4		
A re-designed operating model for the Customer and Business Admin functions through the rollout of digital services across the Council.	331	165	166	
Post-COVID-19 operating model	45	45		
	380	214	0	166
				0



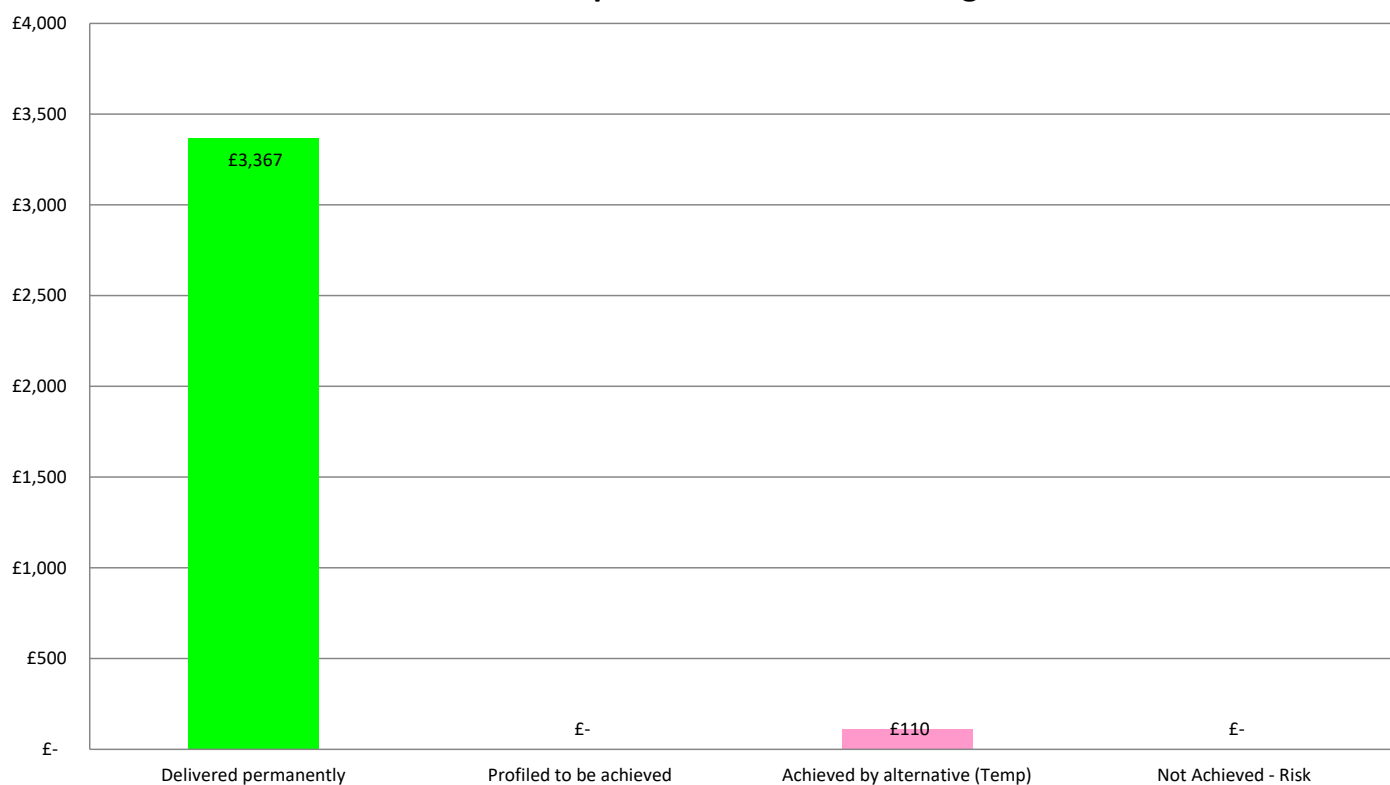
FINANCIAL PLAN EFFICIENCY PROGRESS 2022/23

Finance & Corporate Governance

Savings :

	£'000	Delivered Permanently	Profiled to be achieved	Achieved by alternatives on a temporary basis	Not Achievable
Brought Forward Savings					
Legal Services	40	40			
Audit & Risk - Shared Service Opportunity	22	22			
Finance Savings	72	72			
Assessors & Electoral Registration Services - Structural review as a result of legislative change	17	8		9	
2022/23 Savings:					
Additional Fees & Charges Income across Regulatory Services	16	16			
Finance savings	125	78		47	
Loans Charges	25	25			
Rephasing of Loans Charges	1,500	1,500			
Legal Services	40	40			
Protective Services	86	32		54	
Communications & Marketing	7	7			
Removal of Director post	150	150			
Balance of budgeted recurrent COVID-19 contingency	1355	1355			
Post-COVID-19 operating model	22	22			
	3,477	3,367	0	110	0

Finance & Corporate Governance Savings £000's

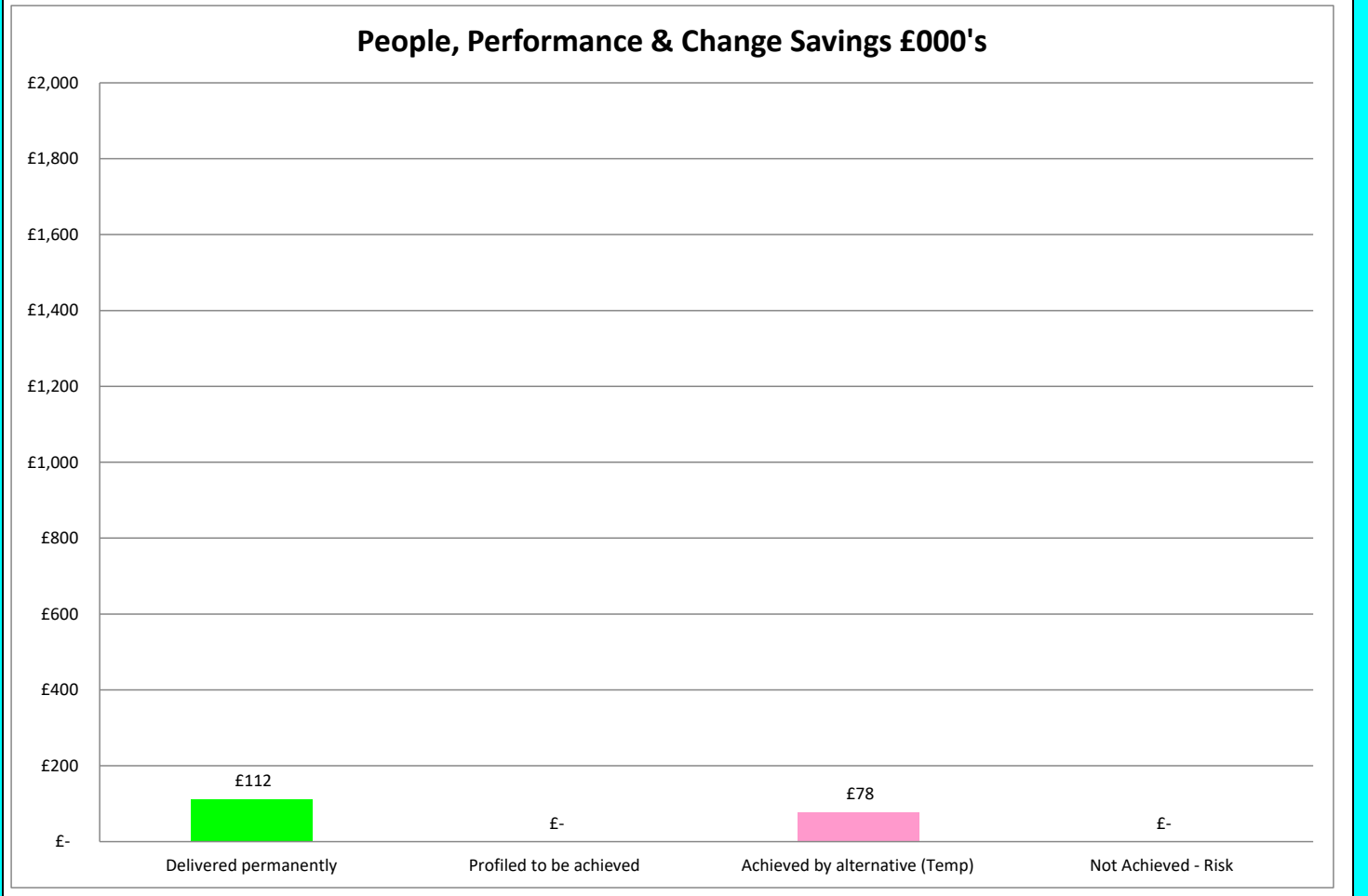


FINANCIAL PLAN EFFICIENCY PROGRESS 2022/23

People, Performance & Change

Savings :

	£'000	Delivered Permanently	Profiled to be achieved	Achieved by alternatives on a temporary basis	Not Achievable
Brought Forward Savings					
Business Change	15				15
Reduce subscriptions budget across the Council by a further 10%	38		9		29
Progress the rollout of digital services across the Council	34				34
2022/23 Savings:					
HR	20		20		
Employment Support Service	33		33		
Reduction in Enhanced Strain on Fund	45		45		
Post-COVID-19 operating model	5		5		
	190	112	0	78	0

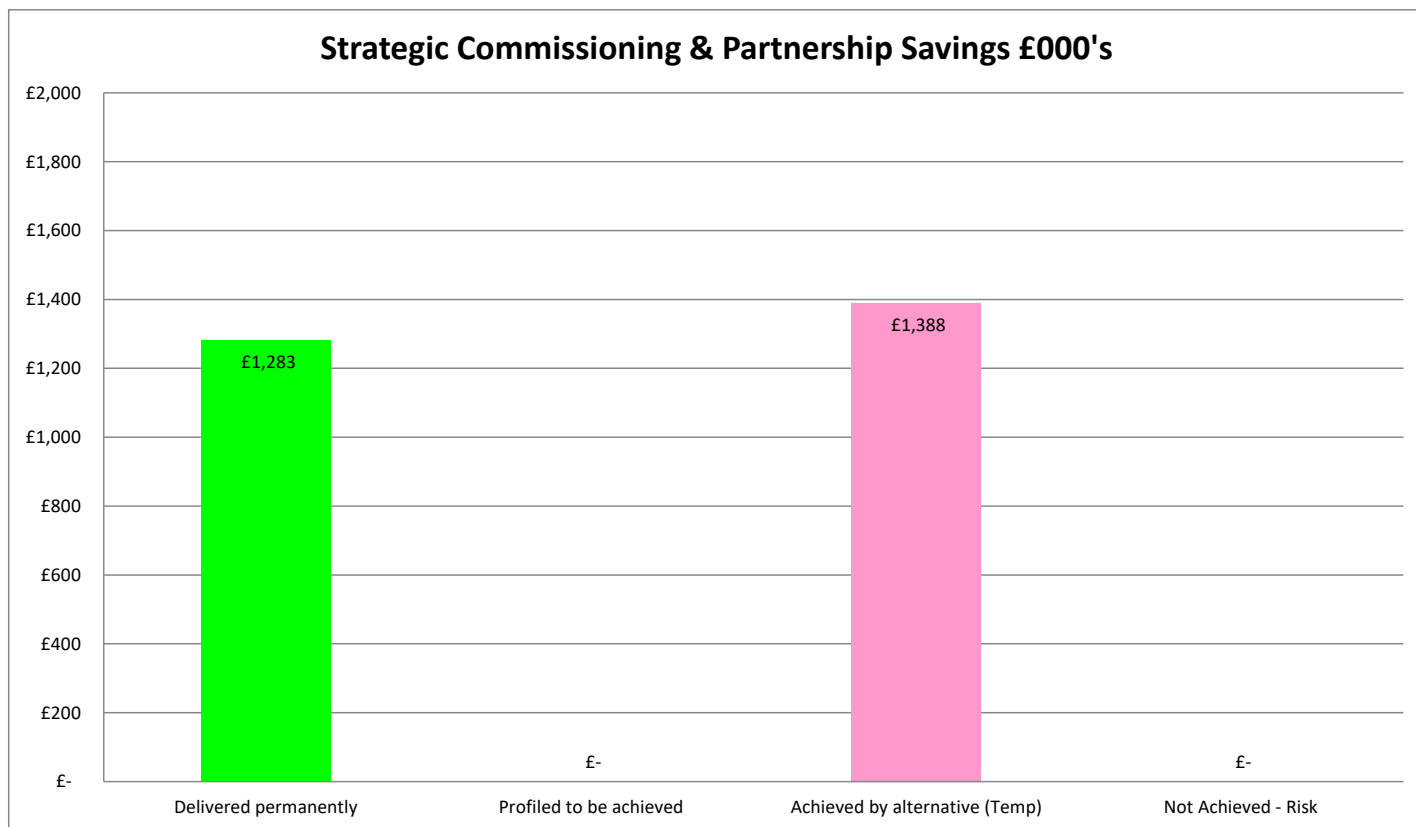


FINANCIAL PLAN EFFICIENCY PROGRESS 2022/23

Strategic Commissioning & Partnership

Savings :

	£'000	Delivered Permanently	Profiled to be achieved	Achieved by alternatives on a temporary basis	Not Achievable
Brought Forward Savings					
Bordercare Alarms	75			0	75
Enterprise Mobility	429	179			
Enterprise Mobility (Removal of Single Handed Care to SW&P)	(250)				
Reablement of Homecare	722				722
2022/23 Savings:					
Better use of Fleet Vehicles	45	45			
Residential Care Retendering	200	200			
Management Fee reduction to Live Borders	251	251			
Culture & Sports Trusts Management Fees	500	500			
IT savings	100	100			
Strategic Commissioning Savings	591				591
Post-COVID-19 operating model	1	1			
Additional Fees & Charges	7	7			
	2,671	1,283	0	1,388	0





BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2023

Report by Acting Chief Financial Officer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides the Executive Committee with an analysis of the Council's balances as at 31 March 2023.**
- 1.2 The Council's General Fund useable reserve (non-earmarked) balance is £8.448m at the end of the financial year. The 2022/23 balances are before a series of technical accounting adjustments, the effect of which are expected to be broadly neutral. Adjustments required as a result of the Statutory Audit process will be reported at the conclusion of the Audit.
- 1.3 The total of all useable balances, excluding developer contributions, at 31 March 2023 is £61.482m compared to £64.481m at 31 March 2022.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Executive Committee:-**
 - a) Notes the revenue balances as at 31 March 2023 as per Appendices 1 & 2 including movement in reserves since the last reporting period; and**
 - b) Notes the balance in the Capital Fund as per Appendix 3.**

3 ACCOUNTS AND FUNDS OPERATED BY THE COUNCIL

3.1 Income and expenditure relating to the Council's services are accounted for and financed through the following funds (as required or permitted by statute):

- a) General Fund
- b) Corporate Property Repairs & Renewals Fund
- c) Insurance Fund
- d) Plant & Vehicles Renewals Fund
- e) Pitch and Play Park Replacement Fund
- f) Capital Fund

4 BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2023

4.1 The unaudited balances on these Funds represent the Council's useable reserves which at the 31 March 2023, is as follows.

BALANCES	31st March 2022 £m	31st March 2023 £m
Earmarked Balances (non DSM)	26.125	26.366
Recovery Fund	9.465	1.187
Earmarked Balances (DSM)	1.599	3.589
Allocated Balances	4.954	7.763
General Fund (Unallocated Reserve)	9.848	8.448
2022/23 revenue underspend (to be ring-fenced within the General fund balance for 2023/24 pay pressures)	0	1.532
Corporate Property Repairs & Renewals Fund	0.051	0.000
Pitch & Play Park replacement fund	0.953	1.401
Insurance Fund	1.623	1.387
Plant & Vehicles Renewals Fund	8.493	8.597
Capital Fund (exc. Developer Contributions)	1.370	1.212
	64.481	61.482

4.2 The balances shown above are before a series of technical adjustments which are required to reflect international accounting requirements. These adjustments are expected to be broadly neutral in terms of the final balances and will be confirmed following finalisation of the Council's statutory accounts.

4.3 Appendix 1 summarises the balances at 31 March 2023 on the General Fund and Appendix 2 shows the projected non-General Fund balances. The net effect is the useable General Fund balance after earmarked funds, allocated reserves and the unaudited 2022/23 revenue outturn is £9.980m at 31 March 2023. The increase in the balance of £1.532m is entirely as a result of the 2022/23 revenue underspend and will be ring-fenced within the general fund balance to support 2023/24 pay pressures when a final SJC and Chief Officer pay agreement is reached.

4.4 During 2022/23 movements in the unallocated General Fund balance are as follows:

	Increase / (Draw down) £	Executive Committee Reporting
Opening 2022/23 balance	9.848m	
Draw down to support communities and businesses during the cost of living crisis	(1.400m)	November 2022
2022/23 revenue underspend (to be ring-fenced within the General fund balance for 2023/24 pay pressures)	1.532m	June 2023
Balance at 31 st March 2022	9.980m	

4.5 The Corporate Financial Risk Register for 2022/23 was considered at the Council Meeting on 22 February 2022 and identified potential risks which include failure to control budgets within approved limits, severe weather events, the economic downturn, potential contractual claims and unplanned emergencies. The accumulated financial risk in the Risk Register was assessed to be £13.785m and the projected useable General Fund balance, at £8.421m, was sufficient to cover 61% of risks identified at that time. The 2023/24 Financial Strategy, approved by Council on 23 February 2023, increased the identified risks to £14.286m and recommended an unallocated reserve of £8.448m, which would cover 59% of the risks. The current general fund balance of £8.448m, excluding the 2022/23 underspend to be earmarked to support pay pressures in 2023/24, is in line with the recommended balance in the 2023/24 financial strategy.

4.6 Movements in the Allocated Balances during 2022/23 are shown in the table below:

ALLOCATED BALANCES	31st March 2022 £m	Increase during 2022/23 £m	Released during 2022/23 £m	31st March 2023 £m
Municipal Mutual	0.233	0	0	0.233
Adverse Weather (including flood)	1.000	0	0	1.000
Workforce Management	1.059	0	(0.169)	0.890
Treasury reserve	2.300	2.069	0	4.369
Strategic Contract movement reserve	0.362	0.909	0	1.271
Total	4.954	2.978	(0.169)	7.763

4.7 Movements in the Allocated Balances since the last reporting in February 2023 are:

- Increase in the Treasury reserve of £1.069m to smooth the effect of changes in capital financing requirements over future financial years;
- Draw down of £0.013m from the Workforce Management reserve to provide for pay award for conserved staff;
- Increase in the strategic contract movement reserve of £0.280m to smooth variations in annual contract costs linked to market conditions.

4.8 A draw down of £0.726m from allocated balances will be reflected in the first 2023/24 monitoring report to reflect approved funding of the 2023/24 Financial Plan.

4.9 Appendix 3 details the balances currently held in the Capital Fund. These balances are temporarily held in the Loans Fund and will attract interest at the end of the financial year. The Fund can only be used for capital purposes or to repay external debt.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no financial implications beyond those contained in the report and appendices.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The major risks associated with this report are that the level of projected balances proves to be insufficient to support the Council in future years. Service budget pressures plus unexpected liabilities are the most likely sources of pressure on reserves. These risks are being managed through regular monitoring of financial activity in all funds of the Council, including regular revenue and capital budgetary control reports to the Executive

Committee. In addition the Corporate Financial Risk Register is regularly reviewed by senior Finance staff.

5.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment**

It is anticipated there will be no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.4 **Sustainable Development Goals**

There are no significant effects on the economy, community or environment. The maintenance of appropriate reserve balances supports the Council's ongoing financial sustainability and ability to respond to unforeseen circumstances.

5.5 **Climate Change**

No effect on carbon emissions are anticipated from the recommendation of this report.

5.6 **Rural Proofing**

It is anticipated there will be no adverse impact on the rural area from the proposals contained in this report.

5.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.8 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to the Schemes of Administration or Delegation as a result of this report.

6 **CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Interim Chief Officer Corporate Governance (and Monitoring Officer), the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications are being consulted on this report and any comments received will be incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Suzy Douglas
Acting Chief Financial Officer

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Suzy Douglas	Acting Chief Financial Officer (X5881)

Background Papers:
Previous Minute Reference:

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

Contact us at: Suzy Douglas, sdouglas@scotborders.gov.uk

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
GENERAL FUND BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2023

	GENERAL FUND £'000's	GENERAL FUND (DSM) £'000's	GENERAL FUND (EARMARKED) £'000's	ALLOCATED RESERVES £'000's	TOTAL £'000's
Balance at 1 April 2022	9,848	1,599	35,590	4,954	51,991
Projected Income (RSG, NDR, Council Tax)	320,326				320,326
Projected Net Revenue Expenditure	(322,033)				(322,033)
Earmarked Balances from previous year	37,189	(1,599)	(35,590)		0
Earmarked Balances to future years	(31,142)	3,589	27,553		0
Drawdown from Workforce Management Allocated Reserve	169			(169)	0
Drawdown from unallocated reserve for Cost of Living support	(1,200)				(1,200)
Treasury Reserve	(2,069)			2,069	0
Dry Mixed Recyclate (DMR) Reserve Fund	(909)			909	0
Drawdown from unallocated reserve to provide support businesses	(200)				(200)
Projected Balance at 31 March 2023	9,980	3,589	27,553	7,763	48,884

This page is intentionally left blank

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
REVENUE FUND BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2023
(EXCLUDING GENERAL FUND)

	CORPORATE PROPERTY REPAIRS & RENEWALS FUND £'000's	PLANT & VEHICLES RENEWAL FUND £'000's	INSURANCE FUND £'000's	PITCH & PLAY PARK REPLACEMENT FUND £'000's	TOTAL £'000's
Balance at 1 April 2022	51	8,493	1,623	953	11,120
Projected Income	2,297	2,469	2,017	448	7,231
	<u>2,348</u>	<u>10,962</u>	<u>3,640</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>18,351</u>
Projected Expenditure	2,348	2,365	2,253	-	6,966
Contribution to Reserves					-
Transfer to/from General Fund					-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Projected Balance at 31 March 2023	-	8,597	1,387	1,401	11,385

This page is intentionally left blank

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL FUND

	Balance as at 31/03/22 £'000	Balance as at 31/03/23 £'000
DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS		
Waverley Railway	-	-
Technical Services	1,209	979
Education & Lifelong Learning	5,470	6,303
Planning & Economic Development	-	-
Social Work - Affordable Housing	503	525
Accrued Interest	578	736
Sub Total Developer Contributions	7,760	8,543
Capital Receipts	1,370	1,212
Total	9,130	9,755

This page is intentionally left blank

CORPORATE DEBTS – WRITE OFFS IN 2022/23

Report by Acting Chief Financial Officer
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13 JUNE 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **As required by the Financial Regulations, this report details the aggregate amounts of debt written off during 2022/23 under delegated authority.**
- 1.2 The report covers the areas of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debtors, Housing Benefit Overpayments and aged debt from the balance sheet.
- 1.3 The total value of write-offs increased from £0.39m in 2021/22 to £0.66m in 2022/23.
- 1.4 There are ongoing risks associated with the management of the Council's debts and these may lead to an increase in the level of debts that may require to be written off as irrecoverable in future years. These have been identified in paragraph 6.2. The Council maintains an appropriate bad debt provision to help manage these risks.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Executive Committee note the debtor balances written off during 2022/23.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Financial Regulations give the Acting Chief Financial Officer authority to write-off individual irrecoverable debts up to £100,000. Any debt in excess of £100,000 may only be written off as irrecoverable following approval by the Executive Committee.
- 3.2 Financial Regulations also require that the Acting Chief Financial Officer shall report to the Executive Committee annually on the aggregate amounts written off under delegated authority and this report fulfils that remit for financial year 2022/23.

4 LEVEL OF WRITE OFFS

- 4.1 The total net amounts which were written off during 2022/23 are shown in table 1 below. Figures for the previous two financial years, previously reported, are shown for comparison.

Table 1

Category	Net amount written off (£'000)	Net amount written off (£'000)	Net amount written off (£'000)
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Council Tax	294.9	209.4	242.0
Non Domestic Rates	140.6	-0.76	282.9
Sundry Debts	199.20	166.4	100.0
Housing Benefit Overpayments	91.04	16.5	37.4
Aged debt from balance sheet	0	0	0
Total	726.1	391.54	662.3

- 4.2 The 'write-offs' are net of any amount 'written back on'. A write-on occurs where a debt has been written off and subsequent information is received, such as a new forwarding address, which would enable the Council to again pursue a debt previously considered irrecoverable. In these circumstances, the write-off will be reversed by a write-on and the debtor will then be pursued for the debt. Due to a change in administrative practices, a write-on can also be necessary where the customer does not provide enough details to allow their overpayment to be refunded. Where a customer does not respond after various attempts a "write-on" will be necessary. When the information is subsequently provided this would enable the Council to issue the refund and the write-on will be reversed.
- 4.3 In all cases, a debt will only be written off when at least one of the following occurs: -
- Legislation prevents its recovery;
 - It is uneconomic to pursue;
 - The Debtor becomes insolvent;

- All options of recovery have been exhausted, which includes the use of the Council's Legal team and the Sheriff Officers, 'Walker Love';
 - After a professional assessment of the debt concludes that recovery is unlikely. For example, if Sheriff Officers advise that there are no assets, or the debtor has left the area and cannot be traced.
- 4.4 The value of Council Tax write offs processed within 2022/23 have increased in comparison to 2021/22. This was expected as resource previously directed to deal with the administration of Covid Business Grants and COLP payments has returned to business as usual. The highest value of write-offs for Council Tax in 2022/23 is within the Deceased category where the Estate has confirmed there are no funds available to recover the sums due. There continue to be issues accessing personal bankruptcy cases which has been escalated to the appropriate portal providers. This could see a significant shift in the figures in the coming reports due to clearing the backlog of these cases once the issue is resolved.
- 4.5 It was expected that the level of Write Offs for Non-Domestic Rates would dramatically increase in 2022/23 in comparison with 2021/22 as resource had been directed to deal with the administration of Covid Business Grants and COLP payments in 2021/22 with no active recovery action being taken. The highest value of write-offs for Non-Domestic Rates in 2022/23 is within the Insolvency category where the ratepayer has become bankrupt or dissolved the company and there are no funds available to recover the sums due.
- 4.6 The amount of Housing Benefit overpayments written off has increased as staff have been able to refocus attention on historical debt as per pre-Covid. Housing Benefit Overpayments attract up to 100% subsidy from The Department for Work and Pensions which combined with the ongoing recovery measures minimises any potential financial loss to the Council.
- 4.7 As intimated in previous year's report, within Sundry Debt, the Council continues to encounter difficulties in recovering social care debt, liquidations/sequestrations and debt that is time barred. The amount of Sundry Debt currently owed to the Council, and deemed to be at risk, presently stands at £0.92m. The Bad Debt Provision as at 31 March 2023 stands at £0.91m with an additional £0.12m to be added in 2023/24.

5 ANALYSIS OF WRITE OFFS

5.1 Council Tax

Table 2 shows the Council Tax debts which have been written off in 2022/23 and have been categorised by reason for the write off:-

Table 2

Reason for Write Off	Council Tax – net amounts written off 2021/22 (£)	No. of transactions	Council Tax – net amounts written off 2022/23 (£)	No. of transactions
Small balance (less than £10)	2,362	2778	-3,195	1178
Surcharges	21,372	1038	25,111	1015
Deceased	74,031	323	159,249	773
No Forwarding Address	32,590	150	18,204	162
Insolvency	72,283	264	33,449	205
Miscellaneous	6,749	257	9,227	75
Total	209,387	4,810	242,045	3,408

5.2

Non Domestic Rates

Table 3 shows the Non Domestic Rates debts which have been written off in 2022/23 and have been categorised by the reason for the write off:-

Table 3

Reason for Write Off	Non Domestic Rates – net amounts written off 2021/22 (£)	No. of transactions	Non Domestic Rates – net amounts written off 2022/23 (£)	No. of transactions
Small balance (less than £10)	37	22	-135	53
Surcharges	0	0	20,778	32
Deceased	0	0	18,717	1
No Forwarding Address	-44	2	-534	4
Insolvency	0	0	190,071	31
Miscellaneous	-755	12	54,075	11
Total	-762	36	282,972	132

5.3 Sundry Debt

The total amount of Sundry Debts written off in 2022/23 is shown in table 4 below by individual categories. Comparative write offs which have already been approved is provided for the two previous financial years, which were previously reported by individual services. To bring the report in line with Council Tax and NDR, reporting is now by categories.

Table 4

Service	Net amount written off (£)		
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Chief Executive	54,051		
People	100,213		
Place	44,912		
Deceased		5,192	42,799
Unable to Trace		1,428	1,799
Bankruptcy & Liquidation		103,022	27,051
Uneconomical to Pursue		856	2,718
Credit Amounts		-3,569	0
Sheriff Officer unable to recover		8,692	13,347
Time Barred		57,927	12,365
Write Backs		-7,123	0
Total	199,176	166,425	100,079

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

An annual budget provision for sundry bad debts of £125k and £843k for Council Tax is maintained, which is regularly reviewed and if necessary will be revised in future.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

The level of debts written off in 2022/23 is significantly higher than 2021/22, due mainly to resources that had been directed to deal with the impact of Covid 19 now directed at the recovery of Non-Domestic Rates. Performance in this area continues to be closely monitored and management action, including the approved policy on debt recovery and supporting procedures, are in place to minimise risk. It should be noted that in Sundry Debtors, there is £0.92m of outstanding debt assessed as carrying the risk of requiring write-off and it is expected that a significant part of this may be irrecoverable and require future write-off. The Council maintains an appropriate bad debt provision to help manage these risks.

6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no impact or relevance to Equality Duty or the Fairer Scotland Duty for this report. This is a routine financial monitoring report which is required to comply with the Financial Regulations.

6.4 **Sustainable Development Goals**

There are no economic, social or environmental effects arising from the proposals contained in this report

6.5 **Climate Change**

There are no effects on climate change arising from the proposals contained in this report

6.6 **Rural Proofing**

There are no effects on rural proofing arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implication arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.8 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Interim Chief Officer Corporate Governance (and Monitoring Officer), the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director People, Performance & Change, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications are being consulted on this report and any comments received will be incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Suzanne Douglas
Acting Chief Financial Officer

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Allison Exley	Income and Reconciliations Manager 01835 824000 x5105
Katrina Wilkinson	CASS Revenues and Benefits Delivery Manager 01835 824000 x2630
Pauline Clark	Benefits Lead Officer 01835 824000

Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference:

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

Contact us at Allison Exley, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA.
Tel 01835 824000,
email: allison.exley@scotborders.gov.uk



PEEBLES SWIMMING POOL

Report by Director Infrastructure & Environment

Executive Committee

13 June 2023

1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1. **This report provides a further update on the repair works to Peebles Swimming Pool. At Executive Committee on 18 April, Members requested that a report exploring alternative methods of funding the additional works would be brought back to the Executive Committee. Officers have examined options and these are set out within this report.**
- 1.2. Reinstatement works began in January 2023 focused on repairs to the damaged roof, plant room, and the internal fabric of the main pool hall. During works, a number of other issues were identified which the Council are addressing alongside the reinstatement works.
- 1.3. Works are due to be completed to enable reopening of the swimming pool for operation by Live Borders in July 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. **I recommend that Executive Committee:**
 - a) **Approves that the funding proposal to reprofile the Building Upgrade Block through acceleration from 2025/26 as described in paragraph 4.9 and Section 5 of this report; and**
 - b) **Note the progress made on reinstatement and refurbishment of the Peebles Swimming Pool and completion and reopening in July 2023.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Within the report considered by Scottish Borders Council on [26 January 2023](#), Members were advised that the reinstatement works began on site on 9 January with a target completion date of the end of April 2023. The report went on to explain that given the nature of the construction works and the complexity that comes with repairing buildings damaged by fire, the completion date may shift and advised that officers will regularly monitor progress and will keep Members updated during the works.
- 3.2. Within the report considered by Executive Committee on [18 April 2023](#) Members were advised that the condition of the roof had been assessed and it was proposed that this would be replaced in its entirety during the fire reinstatement works. This report recommended the following additional works should be undertaken at the same time including:
- Decoration to the poolside and changing village;
 - Upgrading lighting throughout with LED replacements; and
 - Installation of a new fire detection and security alarm system throughout the building.
- 3.3 Consideration was also being given to the introduction of any energy saving measures or the installation of renewable energy (e.g. solar PV). The report went on to explain that as a result of these additional works, it is now intended that the building will be handed back to Live Borders in July 2023 in a condition that allows an immediate reopening to the public.

4. CURRENT PROGRESS

- 4.1. Works in relation to the fire damaged roof structure are complete along with the majority of plant room reinstatement works, with the completion of commissioning imminent. The remaining roof structure has been fully stripped of all asbestos tiles, has been fully ply-lined and around 70% of the roof has been re-tiled to date. The PV panels installation will begin w/c 5th June and it is anticipated completion along with the remainder of the roof re-tiling by w/e 25th June. Both swimming pools have been fully drained, the full poolside areas including pools themselves cleaned down by specialists and pools refilled with completion of such expected by 2nd June. The commencement of redecoration works to the changing village, customer toilets and reception areas are imminent with all works expected to be completion before 31st July 2023.
- 4.2. The current target completion date, taking into account the additional works being undertaken, is 31st July 2023. There is likely to be a 2 week allowance for staff training and handover to Live Borders to allow for full reopening.
- 4.3. A breakdown of costs are summarised in Section 5.1 of this report.
- 4.4. At Executive Committee on 18 April, Members requested that a report exploring alternative methods of funding the additional works should be brought back to the Executive Committee. Officers have examined

alternative funding options to address the fact that all the building upgrade budget had been proposed to be directed to pressures at Peebles Swimming Pool in 2023/24, these are:

- 4.5. **Option 1 - Additional borrowing** – the Council could undertake additional borrowing to fund additional expenditure above that currently budgeted for within the Capital Plan. On the grounds of affordability from a revenue perspective and the requirement to revise the approved treasury strategy this option is not recommended.
- 4.6. **Option 2 - Use of reserves** – the Council could draw down from reserves to supplement the Capital Plan. This is not recommended due to known pressures associated with public sector pay and ongoing financial sustainability. Current proposals to apply the 2022/23 revenue underspend to pay pressures will allow reserves to be maintained at the recommended level approved by Council as part of the 2023/24 financial strategy.
- 4.7. **Option 3 - CFCR (transfer of revenue budget to fund capital expenditure)** – the Council does not have sufficient flexibility within the revenue budget to allow an underspend to be identified for transfer to capital.
- 4.8. **Option 4 - Emergency & Unplanned budget** – The Emergency and Unplanned budget for 2023/24 is £175k, full use of this budget so early in the financial year would not be recommended.
- 4.9. **Option 5 - The Building Upgrade block can be reprofiled through acceleration from 2025/26** - by accelerating £40k of unallocated 2025/26 budget into 2023/24 along with £130k no longer required for Peebles swimming pool roof allows the programme of work previously planned to progress from the building upgrade block as shown in Appendix A. This would result in a total of £170k of building upgrade work being delivered in 2023/24 and the remaining planned building upgrades works progressing for 2024/25 and 2025/26 as previously approved, within the existing budget allocation across the first 3 years of the Capital Plan.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. **Financial**
 - a) The total projected cost of the fire re-instatement and refurbishment works are detailed in the table below:

Works	Total Cost	Proposed Funding Source
	£000's	
Fire re-instatement Works	781	Insurance Receipt
Roof Replacement (Not fire damaged)	370	Building Upgrade Block
Solar Panels	120	Energy Efficiency Works Block
Electrical Works	40	Culture & Sports Trusts - Plant & Services Block
Additional Decorating Works	20	Culture & Sports Trusts - Plant & Services Block
Total Cost	1,331	

- b) The project team meet with insurers weekly to discuss the project. The £781k noted is the expected full insurance settlement figure.
- c) The Building Upgrade Block approved at Executive Committee on 18th April allocated £500k towards Peebles Swimming Pool Roofing Upgrade, the final cost of this is now estimated to be £370k. This allows for £130k to be re-allocated to Building Upgrades across the wider Council Estate
- d) It is recommended that option 5 as detailed at 4.9 is approved as it allows previously planned building upgrade works to proceed but maintains the overall Capital Plan within approved budgets. The proposals at sections 4 of the report are within a context that all other block allocations were approved by the Executive Committee in April 2023 and as such are being progressed as planned. As with all capital projects, should specific building upgrade requirements arise through the year, these would be considered from the Emergency & Unplanned budget or through other underspends across the capital programme throughout the year.
- e) The proposed Building Upgrade Block is detailed in Appendix A.
- f) The solar panels works of £120k are being funded from the Energy Efficiency Works Block, which has a budget allocation of £1m for solar photo voltaic panel installation, pending approval of the Capital Out-turn position for 2022/23 also being presented on today's agenda.
- g) The electrical and decorating works of £60k are being funded by the Live Borders budget within the Culture & Sports Trust – Plant & Services Block, which has a budget allocation of £403k, pending approval of the Capital Out-turn position for 2022/23 also being presented on today's agenda.

5.2. Risk and Mitigations

Management arrangements with Live Borders have been reviewed following the fire in consultation with the Council's insurers to ensure that likelihood of a repeat incident is minimised.

5.3. Integrated Impact Assessment

The closure of the swimming pool will have had an adverse impact on service users within the Tweeddale swimming community. The re-opening of the pool following the repair work will reinstate the use within the local community

5.4. Sustainable Development Goals

The repair work to the roof and building fabric affected by the fire will be undertaken using local skills and trades wherever possible.

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A - Building Upgrade Block

Detail of Current Approved Building Upgrade Block - 18th April

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Projects	£000's	£000's	£000's
Lift infrastructure upgrades		75	75
Electrical Infrastructure management		75	50
School toilet upgrades		100	100
Eyemouth Community Centre roofing upgrades		50	
Schools resurfacing upgrades		50	37
Peebles Swimming Pool roofing upgrade	500		
Public toilet refurbishment		87	
Unallocated Balance	0	0	175
Total Building Upgrade Block	500	437	437

Proposed Building Upgrade Block

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Current Approved Budget	500	437	437
Accelerate budget from 2025/26	40		-40
Proposed budget	540	437	397

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Projects	£000's	£000's	£000's
Peebles Swimming Pool roofing upgrade	370		
Lift infrastructure upgrades	30	75	75
Electrical Infrastructure management	25	75	50
School toilet upgrades		100	100
Eyemouth Community Centre roofing upgrades	50	50	
Schools resurfacing upgrades		50	37
Public toilet refurbishment		87	
Industrial Units fabric upgrades	50		
Linglie Mill roofing & rainwater goods upgrade	15		
Unallocated Balance	0	0	135
Total Building Upgrade Block	540	437	397

This page is intentionally left blank



LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2017-22(23) SIX YEAR SUMMARY REPORT

Report by Director – Infrastructure and Environment

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report seeks endorsement of the Annual Progress Report which sets out achievements and progress in the delivery of the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2017-22(23) (Appendix 1) and approval to submit this to the Scottish Government More Homes Division.**
- 1.2 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to develop a Local Housing Strategy, supported by an assessment of housing need and demand. This strategy sets out the strategic direction for housing investment and service delivery in the Scottish Borders for 2017-22(23).
- 1.3 The Council and its partners have made good progress since the LHS was formally approved in September 2017. Year six has seen some challenges as a result of the legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the Cost of Living Crisis, however, activity during 2022/23 included the delivery of 146 affordable homes, the submission of an ambitious Strategic Housing Investment Plan, delivery of 220 energy efficiency measures underpinned by £1.8m in investment, delivering the Warm and Well Borders project, initiating development of the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, progress related to empty homes, progress in delivery of the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan and 68 major adaptations completed in the private sector.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee:

- (a) **Notes the progress made in delivering on the strategic actions as set out in the appended Annual Progress Report and Monitoring and Evaluation Matrix**
- (b) **Approve submission of the Annual progress Report and Matrix to the Scottish Government More Homes division.**

3 LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to develop a Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The LHS sets out the strategic direction for housing investment and service delivery in the Scottish Borders for 2017-22. As a statutory housing authority the main focus in the delivery of the LHS is ensuring that the Council meets its statutory duties regarding access to, and the provision of, affordable housing and the prevention of homelessness.
- 3.2 A progress report covering the six years of the current LHS is appended at Appendix 1. A detailed monitoring and evaluation matrix has been developed to track the delivery of the strategic actions in year 6 (2022/23) and is appended at Appendix 2. The annual reports for each year of the LHS and the associated monitoring tools can be viewed [here](#).

4 LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2017-22(23) – SIX YEAR SUMMARY

- 4.1 The Scottish Government allocated £93.102m Affordable Housing Supply Programme funding to assist the delivery of affordable housing within the Scottish Borders over six years, 2017/18 – 2022/23.
- 4.2 Funding over the past six years has supported the delivery of 782 new build affordable homes, 103 assisted purchases through Scottish Government's Open Market Shared Equity Scheme, 138 individual purchases by RSLs and 14 new affordable homes through the Rural Housing Grant; a total of 1,046 affordable homes. The six year annual average of homes being secured or developed for affordable housing is 174. Excluding purchases the average new build completions over the six year period is 130 per annum, exceeding our annual 128 unit target. The current SHIP identifies the potential to deliver 1,320 affordable homes over the period 2023-2028. Scottish Government confirmed the following AHSP Allocations to Scottish Borders - £15.954m in 2023/24, £16.010m in 2024/25 and £16.275m in 2025/26. A Resource Planning Assumption of £16.275m has been made for 2026/27. Based on a grant contribution of £100k per unit and a £16m annual allocation it is anticipated there is funding available to support up to 160 new affordable homes per year, or 800 over the 5 year period of the SHIP.
- 4.3 Bridge homes was a Limited Liability partnership established in 2014 by Scottish Borders Council and Scottish Futures Trust to provide affordable housing for mid-market rental through implementation of the NHT LA Variant programme. Over the course of the development phase in 2017/18 and 2018/19 Bridge Homes was able to deliver 54 affordable homes throughout the Scottish Borders. In March 2022 the Council disposed of all 54 homes owned by the LLP to Eildon Housing Association. This enabled the tenants to remain living in their current homes and secured all the homes in the affordable rented sector in perpetuity. Subsequent new tenancies are on the basis of social rented housing.
- 4.4 The third South East Scotland Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3) for the period 2022-27 was prepared throughout 2020 and 2021 on behalf of the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Fife and Scottish Borders Councils. HNDA3 for the South East Scotland area achieved robust and credible status from CHMA on Thursday 28th July

2022. This Assessment informs the setting of the Housing Supply Target for the Borders, identified in the proposed Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 as 353 new homes per year, of which 141 should be affordable housing.

- 4.5 The Empty Homes Officer was recruited in August 2021 and has an active case load of 182 empty homes. The Officer has been making connections with owners, neighbours and communities being affected by empty homes. 2022 also saw the launch of an Empty Homes Grant Scheme. The Grant Scheme has been well received and with 18 applications for a variety of empty homes across the borders, 14 of which will become affordable rental homes. In the first year of dedicated resource being applied to empty homes, we have seen 18 empty homes being brought back into use through direct officer activity. The Empty Homes Officer was also nominated for the SEHP Rising Star Award at the Scottish Empty Homes Conference 2023.
- 4.6 Over the period of 2017/18 to 2022/23 the Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Scheme has successfully delivered over £9.22m of investment in energy efficient measures and renewable technologies for households in the Scottish Borders. Outputs show that from April 2017 to March 2023, 1,870 measures were installed across the Scottish Borders, supporting over 1,553 households. Estimated annual fuel bill savings as a result of this activity are £333k with an estimated reduction in carbon of 1,560 tonnes. The programme was significantly impacted by the pandemic in 2020/21. For the 2023/24 programme Scottish Borders Council have been allocated £1.82m.
- 4.7 The Borders Home Energy Forum was established in 2017/18 and continues to ensure that a strategic, multi-agency approach is taken to help reduce fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency and improve health and well-being in the Scottish Borders, particularly for the most vulnerable households. The Forum was designed to align with climate change and fuel poverty targets and actively seeks to collaboratively address these important issues.
- 4.8 The Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy was developed in 2018 and covered a three year period. SBC's ongoing support and activity in relation to affordable warmth and energy efficiency will continue to be prioritised through the Local Housing Strategy, as a statutory requirement. This will be further supported by development and then delivery of a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy towards the end of December 2023.
- 4.9 Scottish Borders Council secured two years of funding in 2019/20, worth £551,000, from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund to deliver the "Warm and Well Borders" project. The project was delivered through a partnership between Scottish Borders Council, Changeworks, three local Citizens Advice Bureau, Home Energy Scotland, health and social care teams and community health organisations. The scheme was able to support 771 households and secured benefits and savings of £1.2 million for households across the region up to March 2022. The scheme was extended for a further 24 months and in 2022/23 the project has engaged 398 households with 198 cases resolved with a positive outcome and secured benefits and savings of £1.36 million for households across the region.
- 4.10 In 2018/19, the new Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership (BHSP) was established. The key focus of the partnership is

the implementation of the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan (RRTP). The partnership have been on the front line and worked closely throughout the pandemic to ensure that tenants, customers and those at risk of homelessness continued to receive the services and support they required when restrictions were in place.

- 4.11 Development of the Scottish Borders RRTP has been led by the BHHSP and has included consultation with key partners including the Borders Housing Alliance and the Health and Social Care Integration Strategic Planning Group. Implementation of the RRTP commenced in March 2019 (2019/20), and included the development of projects to be launched from late 2020 onwards. A Rapid Rehousing Development Officer was appointed in January 2020 and has played a key role in the implementation of the RRTP and achieving the aims and objectives of the plan. Responding to the Covid 19 pandemic did impact significantly on delivery of actions within the RRTP during that period, however a revised RRTP is now being developed with refreshed outcomes and action plan. A temporary Private Rented Sector Development officer has also recently been appointed and will take up post in April 2023. The officer will embed homelessness prevention principles into the private rented sector by taking forward the private sector elements of Rapid Rehousing Transition plan.
- 4.12 Scottish Borders Housing Association, Waverley Housing and Cyrenians launched the Scottish Borders Housing First pilot in October 2021 which was funded to run for two years and aimed to provide housing and support to 30 households over the period. To the 31st of March 2023, 10 Housing First tenancies had commenced, making a significant contribution to helping to keep vulnerable people safe.
- 4.13 As of January 2023 there were 4,637 approved landlords, and 7,367 approved rental properties in the Scottish Borders. The Private Sector Liaison and Enforcement Officer continues to work with landlords to help improve management and property standards and to support landlords and tenants through recent legislative changes. A number of landlord forums and training events have been held over the past six years in partnership with Landlord Accreditation Scotland.
- 4.14 In 2019 the Council agreed to pilot a Missing Shares Scheme in the Scottish Borders, initially targeting the Hawick Conservation Area over a two year period. Progress in the delivery of the Missing Shares scheme has also been impacted by Covid-19 therefore the CARS programme and the associated Missing Shares pilot have now been extended until 2025. Currently the pilot is aligned principally to support the activities of CARS. If non-participation in CARS is experienced the threat of missing shares, including associated cost and the additional disincentive of missing out on grants, has meant that provision of a share has remained untested. However as an incentive to act missing shares remains an important mechanism. Currently there is one 'live' case where a missing share seems likely, supporting a priority tenement containing 5 'flats' within Hawick town centre.
- 4.15 2023 will see the introduction of the [shared repairs app](#) across the Borders area and the establishment of the trusted trader scheme. In addition proposals to roll out the missing shares pilot to other priority areas will be brought to Executive Committee for consideration and approval.

- 4.16 Most people want to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and the majority of older people that need care and support receive this in their own homes, enabled through home care, adaptations and equipment. Investment in adaptations, advice and information for older people and their families supports this. The Care and Repair service provides home adaptations, small repairs, handyperson service, falls assessments and information and advice to enable older and disabled people across all housing tenures to remain in their own homes. The Care and Repair service works in close partnership with the HSCP to provide all adaptations commissioned by health, social care and referrals made directly from households and enables the same high standards in adaptations to be delivered across all the localities. Over the past 6 years, £1.257m has been spent on private sector major adaptations under the Scheme of Assistance, supporting 366 households. RSLs have spent £2.334m over the period on 593 adaptations across their stock. Care & Repair have project managed 1,967 minor adaptations and repairs, and 403 major adaptations over the six year period of the last LHS. There have been 22,572 visits by a handyperson.
- 4.17 In 2019 the Young People’s Housing Needs Plan was developed with significant engagement and input from young people and stakeholders across the region. The study, and associated plan, helped developed a range of policy and practical responses, with commitment from a range of partners. These will enable young people to make more successful and sustainable transitions into their own housing. Work has been ongoing on a number of these actions and this work will be carried forward into the LHS 2023-2028.
- 4.18 In January 2020 the report “A space to live – Wheelchair accessible housing in the Scottish Borders” was completed. Informed by the report the Executive Committee subsequently agreed, in November 2020, that the Council would set an annual Wheelchair Accessible Housing target of 20 homes with proposed delivery being divided into 15 by Registered Social Landlords with the balance provided by the private sector. This target is reflected in Scottish Borders Council’s current Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023/28. In 202/21, 2 wheelchair accessible homes were built, 48 in 2021/22 and 6 in 2022/23, an average of 18 per year since the target was set.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

- (a) There is no direct financial implication contained in the report. However delivery of the LHS is dependent on SBC’s continuous provision of core services, financial resource allocations from Scottish Government, the continuing support from the affordable housing budget (Second Homes Council Tax) and resources arising from the affordable housing policy, partner agencies and private individuals.
- (b) Where any specific actions are considered as having a resource implication for the Council Officers would bring back proposals for

consideration by the Executive Committee as they arise over the period of the strategy.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) Delivery of the LHS aims and objectives is largely dependent upon a number of variables, not least of which relate to resource and other political and organisational decision making processes beyond the control of the Local Authority.
- (b) A Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) Screening Report was undertaken when the LHS was developed. This concluded that a full SEA would not be required for the LHS as it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Any potential environmental effects from any specific proposals or plans which may relate to the LHS will be individually considered and addressed through the planning process and full SEAs in due course.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

- (a) A full Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the current LHS (2017-2022). Equalities forms an integral part of the LHS process and is part of the LHS guidance.
- (b) A full Integrated Impact Assessment will be embedded in the development process of the new Local Housing Strategy.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

It is considered that implementation of the Local Housing Strategy contributes positively to goals 1, 3, 7, 8 10, 11 and 13. The strategy sets out the strategic direction for housing investment and service delivery in the Scottish Borders. The plan prioritises the delivery of, and access to, affordable housing; prioritises action to address climate change and contributes to reducing inequalities and tackling poverty.

5.5 Climate Change

It is considered that there are no direct effects on the Council's carbon emissions arising from the report recommendations. There are likely to be positive effects through fuel poverty and energy efficiency outcomes, as well as promoting sustainability through better use of existing stock and action to improve house condition.

5.6 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.7 Rural Proofing

The LHS 2017-22 has been rural proofed and it is anticipated there will be no adverse impact on the rural area from implementation. There is likely to be a wide range of positive outcomes for rural communities, including improvements in health, fuel poverty levels and availability of affordable housing in a variety of tenures.

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

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

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), 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 - John Curry

Job Title - Director – Infrastructure and Environment

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Donna Bogdanovic	Lead Officer, Housing Strategy & Development Donna.bogdanovic@scotborders.gov.uk 01896 661392
Lindsey Renwick	Principal Officer, Housing Strategy LRenwick@scotborders.gov.uk

Background Papers: APPENDIX 1: LHS Six Year Annual Progress Report 2017/18 – 2022/23

APPENDIX 2: Monitoring and Evaluation Matrix 2017-22 – Year 6

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

Contact us at: Housingenquiries@scotborders.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL'S
**LOCAL HOUSING
STRATEGY**
2017/18 - 2022/23
SIX-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT



CONTENTS		Page No.
1	Introduction	3
2	Housing Supply	4
3	Good Quality and Energy Efficient Homes	21
4	Homelessness	36
5	Support to Live Independently	48

1. Introduction

The LHS is the document that provides the strategic direction to tackle housing need and demand and to inform the future investment in housing and related services across the Scottish Borders area. The Strategy brings together the Local Authority's responses to the whole housing system including: requirements for market and affordable housing, prevention and alleviation of homelessness, meeting housing support needs, energy efficiency and house condition.

This LHS covered the period from April 2017 until March 2023, with elected members approving deferment of the next Local Housing Strategy by one year and the extension of the current plan by one year. The strategy was developed with partners and stakeholders and was formally approved in September of 2017. It addresses a wide range of challenges and issues as well as setting out outcomes, priorities and actions to be delivered

The vision for the LHS is:

**Every person in the Scottish Borders
lives in a home that meets their
needs**



The following four priorities were defined over the course of the LHS and continue over the additional year:

1. LHS Priority One: The Supply of Housing Meets the Needs of Our Communities
2. LHS Priority Two: More People Live in Good Quality, Energy Efficient Homes
3. LHS Priority Three: Fewer People are Affected by Homelessness
4. LHS Priority Four: More People are Supported to Live Independently in Their Own Homes

Some of the key objectives of the Local Housing Strategy included:

- To help ensure adequate housing supply across all tenures to address the varying and diverse housing need in the Borders
- To promote and increase energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty through the development and implementation of a new Home Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Strategy
- To increase the supply of new affordable housing that meets the needs of our community through the ongoing development and delivery of the next and future Strategic Housing Investment Plans
- To tackle disrepair in the private sector and address landlord compliance
- To address the Housing, Support and Care needs of the growing population of older people through the implementation of an Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People's Housing, Support and Care Needs
- To improve the health and wellbeing for people experiencing homelessness, and ensure fewer people are affected by homelessness
- To gain a better understanding of the housing aspirations and needs of young people in the borders

This 6 year summary report provides an update on the progress and achievements during the 5 year period of the LHS, and provides updates for 2022/23.

2. Housing Supply

Addressing Priority 1: The Supply of Housing Meets the Needs of Our Communities

Key Achievements:

- The delivery of 1,046 affordable homes; equating to an annual average of 174 homes a year, 131 new homes a year, exceeding the annual 128 target
- The SHIP 2018-2023 set out potential for up to 1,177 new homes which represent an estimated investment value of around £174.5m.
- £93.102m of Scottish Government funding allocated from the Affordable Housing Supply Programme
- The third South East Scotland Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3) for the period 2022-27 received robust and Credible status in July 2022
- Over the past 5 years, the Council has been working closely with Waverley Housing to consider suitable options and progress regeneration of Beech Avenue area in Upper Langlee, Galashiels. In March 2021,
- A new Regional Housing Board was established in 2019 as a means of better engaging the housing sector and harnessing its potential contribution towards the wider City Region Deal objectives.
- Lowood in Tweedbank is the only strategic housing site identified in the Borders Railway Corridor and in the South East Scotland City Region Deal. Following a considerable amount of work, Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and Design Guide (DG) agreed by Council in June 2021.
- Operation of Conservation Area Regeneration Schemes (CARS) in Selkirk, Jedburgh and Hawick
- Recruitment of an Empty Homes Officer in August 2021 and has an active case load of 110 empty homes.

COVID-19 Impact

COVID-19 adversely impacted on affordable housing delivery, in particular with closure of construction sites and delays to planned site starts resulting in the need to delay construction activity with affected projects completed months later than originally intended. As a side effect there was an under spend in 2020/21 of the grant allocation from Scottish Government in the Scottish Borders area. However, the programme began to recover towards the end of the restrictions and 449 homes were under construction by March 2021.

COVID-19 also impacted the delivery of a range of plans and activities including Energy Efficiency Programmes, delivery of Homelessness services, CARS work, Empty Homes activity as well as impacting on Landlords and Tenants through emergency legislation and subsequently the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022.

Affordable Housing Delivery

Over the course of the current parliament the Scottish Government have set a national target for the delivery of 110,000 affordable homes by 2032 within Scotland – of which at least 70% will be available for social rent and 10% in our rural and island communities. The Scottish Government allocated a total of £93.102m in Affordable Housing Supply Programme funding to assist with the delivery of affordable housing within the Scottish Borders.

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is the sole strategic document for prioritising affordable housing investment within the Scottish Borders and sets out a rolling five year planning horizon. The SHIP 2023/28 was approved by Scottish Borders Council in October 2022 and identifies the potential to deliver

1,320 new affordable homes, under-pinned by an estimated £268m of investment over the period of the plan.

Over the 6 years covered by the Council’s Local Housing Strategy, 1,041 affordable homes have been delivered. This equates to an annual average of 174 homes which comfortably exceeds the annual 128 unit target.

**1,046 affordable homes delivered across the Scottish Borders
2017/18 – 2022/23**

Table 1 provides a summary of all affordable homes delivered over the past 6 years:

Table 1: Affordable Housing Completions						
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Eildon Housing Association	61	90	58	12	204	92
Berwickshire Housing Association	20	30	52	29	31	28
Scottish Borders Housing Association	6	10		4		
Waverley Housing			4			
Trust Housing Association				49		
Cairn Housing Association					2	
National Housing Trust (NHT)		9				
Open Market Shared Equity Scheme	34	22	14	9	16	8
RSL/Open Market Purchase	25	31	5	4	60	13
Rural Housing Grant			8		1	5
Total	146	192	141	107	314	146



Addressing Housing Need and Demand

Over the lifetime of this LHS, Scottish Borders Council used Second Homes Council Tax and Affordable Housing Developer contributions to support and enable the delivery of affordable housing across the Borders in a variety of ways:

- Berwickshire Housing Association to carry out a master planning study for Beanburn/Lawfield sites at Ayton
- Waverley Housing to progress the regeneration of Beech Avenue Galashiels

- To support Eildon Housing Association’s “Green House Pilot” home energy efficiency action based research initiative
- Trust Housing Association to provide Extra Care housing at Todlaw Duns
- Eildon Housing Association to provide Extra Care housing at Langhaugh Galashiels
- Eildon Housing Association to provide Extra Care housing at Ex Kelso High School
- Eildon HA in providing a wheelchair standard house at Springwell Brae in Broughton
- Scottish Borders Housing Association to progress their proposals for TARTH Crescent Blyth Bridge
- Eildon Housing Association to deliver their project at Tweed Bridge Court Peebles
- Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development to provide five affordable homes at Ettrickbridge
- A wheelchair accessible housing need study
- Housing needs and aspirations of young people study
- Complete the delivery of the Scottish Borders Integrated Older Peoples Housing, Care and Support Strategic Plan
- Recruitment of an Empty Homes Strategy & Policy Officer

Examples of Completed Developments 2017/18-2022/23



Roxburgh Street, Kelso 2017/18



Sergeants Park, Newtown St Boswells 2018/19



The Glebe, Chirnside 2019/20



Todlaw, Duns 2020/21



Wilkie Gardens, Galashiels 2021/22



High Buckholm Phase 1, Galashiels 2022/23

Elm Court

Eildon Housing Association's development at Elm Court in Hawick began in July of 2020, with the aim of refurbishing and altering the 30 original flats at the site into 21 modern and sustainable homes. The design brief for the redevelopment focused on key objectives based on feedback from existing and departing tenants:

- To combine smaller, 1 bedroom/1 person flats into larger, more flexible flats with improved space
- To improve thermal efficiency using a "fabric first" approach and replace the ageing electric storage heaters with modern air-source heat pumps
- Reduce noise transfer between flats
- Replace major components including windows, doors, wiring, kitchens and bathrooms



The build was finished in August of 2022 with tenants moving in soon after – with the build costing circa £1.9m with a 400k grant from Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme.

Tackling Rural Affordability

Scottish Borders Housing Association have completed a new development comprising four three bed family homes at Heriotfield in Oxton. Following background research into local housing as well as close consultation with the local community, it was confirmed that there was a specific need for affordable family homes in Oxton, which in recent years had seen families priced out of local housing and a resultant fall in the school roll. All four homes at Heriotfield are now allocated with two of them providing homes to families returning to the area.



These homes feature air source heating: an energy-efficient, low-carbon home energy solution for off-grid homes, allowing tenants to both heat their homes economically and reduce their impact on the environment.

Through partnership working between SBHA, Scottish Borders Council, Oxton and Channelkirk Community Councils, wider benefits have been generated for this small community as part of the build, including improvements to the adjacent Council-owned play park and groundworks for a new community hub.



Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company also led the community purchase of the former farm buildings and site of 2.06 hectares at Ettrickbridge from Buccleuch Estates. In late 2022 the development was successfully completed and the old Kirkhope Farm steading has been transformed into 5 affordable houses and 7 energy efficient workshop units.

Bridge Homes

Bridge homes was a Limited Liability partnership established by Scottish Borders Council and Scottish Futures Trust to provide affordable housing for mid-market rental. Over the course of the development phase in 2017/18 and 2018/19, Bridge Homes owned 54 affordable homes throughout the Scottish Borders.

In December 2021 the Council disposed of all 54 homes owned by the LLP to Eildon Housing Association. The disposal was settled on 25 March 2022. This enabled the tenants to remain living in their current homes and secured all the homes in the affordable rented sector in perpetuity. Subsequent new tenancies will be on the basis of social rented housing.



Tweedside

Tweedside was a Limited Liability Partnership that was also established by the Council, Scottish Futures Trust and a local developer to provide affordable housing for mid-market rental. During 2016/17, Eildon Housing Association acquired 21 homes at Chris Paterson Place Galashiels, and followed up in 2018/19 by acquiring all remaining 24 homes at James Hogg Court Innerleithen. This was supported by grant funding from Scottish Government's More Homes Division, and enabled the tenants to remain living in their homes in affordable housing.

Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA)

HNDA3 provides the evidence base for policy decisions in Local Housing Strategies and land allocation decisions in Local Development Plans for the local authorities in South East Scotland (City of Edinburgh Council, East Lothian Council, Midlothian Council, West Lothian Council, Fife Council and Scottish Borders Council) subject to subsequent agreement of housing supply targets.

The purpose of the HNDA is to estimate the future number of additional housing units to meet existing and future housing need and demand by housing market area, based on a range of scenarios rather than precise estimates. This includes analysis of demographic, affordability and wider economic trends which are key drivers of local housing markets, helping partners to understand housing market dynamics and make evidence-based choices on meeting housing need and demand. A section of HNDA3 also provides contextual information on a range of specialist housing requirements, helping inform targets for wheelchair and other accessible forms of housing.

The third South East Scotland Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3) for the period 2022-27 was prepared throughout 2020 and 2021 on behalf of the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Fife and Scottish Borders Councils. Officers from each local authority formed the HNDA3 Core Project Team who examined the interaction of Housing Market Areas in South-East Scotland; key housing market drivers; the housing stock profile and pressures; the current and future housing need and demand; and the need for specialist housing.



Over the course of 2020/21, officers from the HNDA3 Core Project Team used the HNDA tool to calculate housing estimates. This is a complex Excel database pre-populated with data, although the system can be adjusted to account for scenarios around future growth. The project team agreed six main scenarios (including a bespoke scenario for Midlothian), providing a range of options for growth.

Scenario 1: HNDA Tool	Default position
Scenario 2: HNDA Tool with LA Existing Need	An additional scenario was produced to test the HNDA Tool default position but replacing the default existing need calculation with the local authority-generated existing need figures.
Scenario 2a: HNDA Tool with LA Existing Need / Midlothian Modelling	Was requested by Midlothian Council based on Scenario 2 but with a 10-year backlog clearance for Midlothian only.
Scenario 3: Strong Growth	Reflecting a very positive outlook with movement towards high real terms income growth, high inward migration, greater equality, high/ moderately high house price and rental growth across all local authorities.

Scenario 4: Steady Growth	Providing moderate real terms income growth, principal household projections, 'creeping' equality, moderate/trend house price and rental growth. The outputs of this scenario most closely reflect past trends.
Scenario 5: Slow Growth	Low inward migration reflecting below real terms income growth, greater inequality, moderately low / low house price and rental growth.
Scenario 6: Stalled Growth	Delay in recovery from Covid-19 pandemic to 2024 followed by moderate real terms income growth, principal projection, 'creeping' equality, moderate/ trend house price and rental growth.

The Strong growth scenario was the preferred scenario for the Scottish Borders. The strong growth this scenario outlined in the HNDA3 reflects a positive outlook across the region with movement towards high real terms income growth, high inward migration, greater equality, high/moderately high house prices and rental growth. It reflects regional ambitions such as:

- More people move to the Scottish Borders from Edinburgh and the Lothians, making use of the links to the City by rail, in particular the Northern HMA and parts of Central HMA.
- Tourists are attracted to the area with the Tapestry opening in Galashiels, and a wider Masterplan relating to the town centre, with Destination Tweed continuing investment in biking facilities in the Tweed valley.
- Central Borders Innovation Park expands and redevelops, and the expansion of Tweedbank for housing and commercial development is underway.
- High levels of investment lead to improved digital connectivity, opening opportunities for businesses in rural areas of the Scottish Borders, and the new railway station at Reston provides more development opportunities to the East Coast.

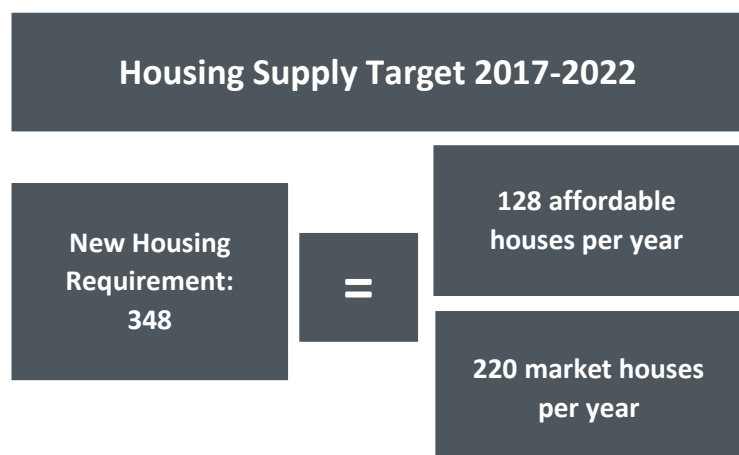
The third Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3) for the South East Scotland area achieved robust and credible status from CHMA on Thursday 28th July 2022.

Housing Supply Targets

The current Housing Supply Target (HST) identified in the Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 was set in 2016. The target was informed by the outputs of SESplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment2 (HNDA2). The LHS 2017-22 identified the target as 348 new homes per year. This comprises of 128 affordable homes and 220 market homes per annum.

The affordable housing supply targets were ambitious, but achieved due to the Council and its RSL partners responding proactively and creatively to opportunities to increase the housing supply in the Borders over the last five years. Over the lifespan of the strategy on average 173 new affordable homes were delivered per year.

The housing supply target (HST) was determined in partnership with SESplan as part of the process of developing the Strategic Development Plan. The Targets must be reasonable, properly reflect the HNDA estimate of housing demand in the market. The HST is a policy view of the number of homes that each authority has agreed will be delivered in each housing market area over the periods of the development plan and Local Housing Strategy. The current Housing Supply



Targets were approved by SESplan Project Board in February 2016 and finalised in October 2016. The HST covers the period of the LHS.

The proposed Housing Supply target (HST) for the next LHS period of 2023-28 is set at 352 annual completions, with 141 of these being affordable housing. Both targets are higher than the current targets, setting an ambitious but achievable goal for housing supply in the Scottish Borders.

Housing Supply Strategy

The Housing Supply Strategy 2018 - 2028 was developed to help better understand how the council and its partners can more effectively respond to the challenge of increasing the supply of new and suitable housing for the local area, while achieving our strategic vision for housing growth in the Scottish Borders over the next ten years and beyond. The Housing Supply Strategy supports the Local Housing Strategy (2017-2022) with particular focus on strategic priority 1 of the LHS: The supply of housing meets the needs of our communities.

Providing an adequate supply of new affordable, high quality and appropriate housing will not only aid in sustaining the council's rural communities but also with attracting potential new residents to the area.

Partnership working is an essential element of developing and implementing the Housing Supply Strategy which aims to deliver high quality housing across the Scottish Borders. Some of the actions currently being progressed are:

- Providing information and advice on shared equity schemes and promoting alternative home ownership options
- Creating housing profiles for each of the five localities within the region
- Developing a profile of empty homes
- Reviewing levels of second/ holiday home ownership and consider any potential interventions
- Promoting the self-build loan fund

The actions from the supply strategy have now been incorporated into the development of the new LHS 2023-2028.

Young People's Housing Study

In order to deliver on the Council's strategic priorities and understanding the housing needs and aspirations of young people, the Council commissioned Indigo House to undertake a needs assessment of housing needs of young people in the Scottish Borders. This had the aim of supporting the development of a new action plan to help improve housing outcomes for young people.

The study included a lot of engagement with young people, this included:

- Focus groups with young people in schools from 14-18 years;
- A wide scale face to face survey of young people aged 16-34 years
- Comparative exploration of housing models across the UK and internationally considering what works and what could be applicable in the Scottish Borders;
- A programme of professional stakeholder engagement to complement that of the engagement with young people



A steering group which included a range of Community Planning partners oversaw the research and development of an Action Plan. This then shaped outcomes and priorities in the action plan, which are:

- **Priority 1: A holistic strategic approach for jobs, housing and transport**
 - Outcome 1 – Community planning partners take a holistic and strategic approach to the skills, employment, and housing and transport needs of young people in the Scottish Borders
- **Priority 2: Increasing housing choices and options**
 - Outcome 2 – Young people are able to access a range of different housing options which enable continued skills development and access to employment in the Scottish Borders
- **Priority 3: Meeting the needs of vulnerable young people**
 - Outcome 3 – Young people are able to access a range of housing information, advice and support to enable independent living
- **Priority 4: Monitoring and review of the Action Plan**
 - Outcome 4 – The Housing needs of young people are understood and services implemented in the context of a wider Local Housing Strategy and the Integrated Children and Young People’s Plan



This resulted in the creation of a five year action plan. This plan has developed a range of policy and practical responses, with commitment from a range of partners. This will enable young people to make more successful and sustainable transitions into their own housing. Work is currently underway towards ensuring these actions are delivered and that Scottish Borders Council works closely with our partners. Some of these actions are:

- Engage with transport initiatives and seek to link with housing to maximise impact e.g. Explore opportunities to subsidise first months travel for new Modern Apprentices at SBC
- Develop and implement the private rented sector strategy to improve access to and quality in the private rented sector.
- Work with community councils and other community representatives to consider whether there is interest and capacity within communities to enable new community led housing development
- Implementing actions in the RRTP
- Housing leads to support the development of the Child Poverty Plan in 2019

The work on young people and actions have been included in the development of the new LHS 2023-2028 and as a result, further actions will be taken forward as part of the new LHS.

Masterplan for Upper Langlee, Galashiels Regeneration

A consultancy brief was developed in partnership between the Council’s Strategic Housing and Waverley Housing to significantly regenerate and improve the homes and sense of place of part of Upper Langlee. Working with Ark Consultancy and through working in partnership with the community and other registered social landlords a Masterplan for the area has been developed.

Scottish Borders Council and Waverley Housing have worked closely to consider suitable options for the future of part of the Upper Langlee



housing estate in Galashiels. There are 229 homes in the study area and proposals envisaged the demolition of 159 homes and the provision of 109 new build energy efficient homes for social rent. These homes will better meet the needs of tenants and residents in the local community along with addressing future housing demand in the Galashiels area.



The project also includes the refurbishment of 68 homes which has been completed in 2021. In March 2021, planning consent was granted for 229 homes including the demolition of 159 homes.

This is a high cost regeneration project with estimated costs in the region of £19.5m. This will be delivered over a number of financial years through a process including rehousing remaining tenants and demolition of vacant blocks. Demolition was completed in December 2022 and Waverley Housing are currently in the process of procuring a contractor for phase 1 of the new development.

There has been a desire to regenerate this area of Galashiels for some time, and this development is considered a strategic housing priority for both Waverley Housing and Scottish Borders Council. The development offers a clear fit with a number of the Strategic Outcomes set out in the Local Housing Strategy.

South East Scotland City Region Deal

Building on previous Council joint working through the South East Scotland Plan arrangements, City Region Deal joint working has developed on a number of fronts, with new governance arrangements being developed and agreed upon. A new Regional Housing Board was established in 2019 as a means of better engaging the housing sector and harnessing its potential contribution towards the wider City Region Deal objectives.

A number of work streams have been, or are being developed. There is a particular focus on the development of a “Regional Growth Framework”, which will be published for consultation in June 2021 and the development of Housing Need and Demand Assessment 3. The South East Scotland City Region partnership has developed a greater understanding of infrastructure requirements and challenges as well as opportunities for modern methods of construction and related funding bids.

The Regional Housing Programme aims to accelerate the delivery of affordable housing and housing across all tenures, enable the development of seven major strategic housing sites and drive efficiencies across the public sector estate. It has two strategic objectives were identified for the Regional Housing Programme:

- Deliver a step change in innovation and inclusive growth in the housing and construction sectors; and
- Deliver a step change in the supply of new homes across the South East of Scotland

Regional partners collaborate, share best practices and lessons learned on strategic sites, infrastructure, affordable housing delivery, innovation, and skills. There are seven strategic sites Blindwells, Calderwood, Dunfermline, Edinburgh's Waterfront, Shawfair, Winchburgh and Tweedbank in the Borders.

The Edinburgh City Region Housing programme also includes the Edinburgh Home Demonstrator project which will demonstrate the effectiveness of homes designed and constructed to net zero carbon, using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). MMC uses technology, new materials and contemporary on-site building techniques to improve efficiency and quality in buildings. Two Borders based RSLs have expressed interest in participating in this project and will be identifying potential sites in 2023/24. This work is in collaboration with:

- Scottish Government
- Scottish Futures Trust
- Off Site Solutions Scotland
- Edinburgh Napier University
- BE-ST (formerly Construction Scotland Innovation Centre)

Lowood, Tweedbank

Lowood in Tweedbank is the only strategic housing site identified in both the Borders Railway Corridor and the South East Scotland City Region Deal that is situated within the Scottish Borders. During 2018/19, the Council concluded the acquisition of the Lowood Estate which was identified as providing a key mixed use development site opportunity, aligned to the Borders Railway Corridor and City Region Deal partnership working. At the Lowood site at Tweedbank there have been a number of developments through 2021/22:

At the Lowood site at Tweedbank there have been a number of developments through 2021/23:

- Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and Design Guide (DG) agreed by Council in June 2021
- In September 2021 Council approval was secured in relation to the construction of road and service infrastructure into Business Zones 1 & 2 and into housing allocation.
- A planning application submitted for roads and service infrastructure was submitted in March 2022.
- Establishment of Board to oversee delivery of housing, supported living and elderly care facilities at Tweedbank
- The application was for the construction of road infrastructure, drainage and planting (22/00494/FUL) was approved in April 2023

Further milestones looking ahead to 2023/24 will include:

- Identify funding for construction of a new bridge over the railway into the housing allocation; and
- Preparation of further reports to Council providing general update, information on Care Village proposals and information on the marketing strategy for the site.
- For the first phase of road works connecting to zones 4 & 5 it is likely these could start towards the end of 2023 and complete in Spring 2024
- Bridge works and further road connections may start on site in 2024

Town Centre Work

Housing has a significant role to play in contributing to and helping to maintain the vibrancy of town centres. Through implementing actions outlined in the LHS, in 2019/20 Scottish Borders Council has continued to work with partners on initiatives to improve town centres, including support to reduce the number of vacant properties, targeting energy efficiency measures within areas, as well as piloting a missing shares scheme in Hawick supporting scheme of assistance approaches in regard to housing condition, including common repair. Over the period of the LHS, three Town Centre Housing Contribution

Statements have been developed for Hawick, Eyemouth and Galashiels. Officers are also proactively involved in the Town Place-making Groups and the development of the Local Place plans, as well as targeting empty homes activity in Town Centres with higher numbers of vacant homes.

Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)

The Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) is part of a national programme to conserve Scotland's traditional buildings and support the regeneration of town centres. CARS activity supports the Scheme of Assistance which helps address issues of housing quality and condition. Information and advice is provided to owner occupiers, landlords and tenants of privately let properties; helping address disrepair and supporting owners of empty property to bring them back into use.

Selkirk CARS

2018/19 saw the end on the five year Selkirk CARS project; a partnership project developed with a community-based steering group, funded by Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Borders Council. All of the CARS funded works and activities were complete by 31st March 2018, with additional externally funded works completing to compliment the CARS investment, notable at Sir Walter Scott's Courthouse and the Streetscape Improvement works in the Market Place.



59 High Street, Selkirk - Before CARS work and After

Selkirk CARS focused on a range of heritage and conservation-based regeneration activities within the town, the centrepiece being repairs to the Sir Walter Scott Courthouse steeple, weather vane, clock faces and high level stonework.

Almost 70 grant offers were made through the scheme, ranging from £525 to £205,000, enabling a range of traditional building repairs and improvements. Works continued to regenerate problem/ empty sites within the town at buildings on the High Street/ Chapel Street, Scott's Close and Scott's Place/ Viewfield Lane.

Jedburgh CARS

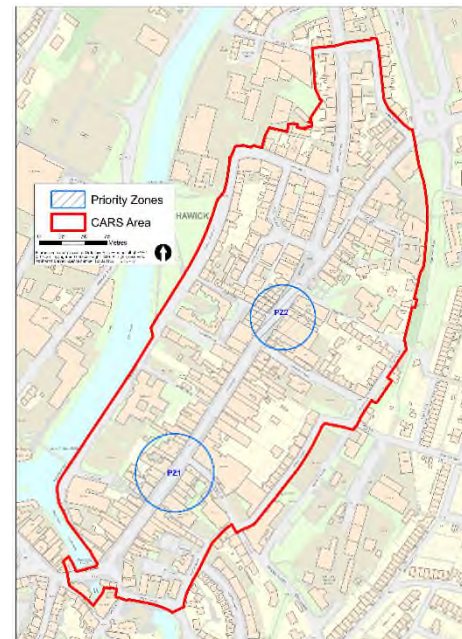
Jedburgh CARS focused on a range of heritage and conservation based regeneration activities within the town centre over a five year period (2017-22). Jedburgh CARS formally closed on the 31st March 2022 with some extensions granted to complete works. A total of 59 grant awards were made for building repairs towards 32 town centre buildings, totalling over £749k in spend. Additionally, seven priority projects were offered funding totalling over £390k, including the Port House which is set to be in use again with the help of £187,500 of CARS funding. There was also essential repairs carried out to the Abbey Ramparts retaining wall. Jedburgh CARS successfully delivered, the project outputs identified at the outset of the scheme, and has also been successful in attracting some additional funding to support additional repair works in the town centre. The final year of the initiative was challenging, due to backlog of construction works, but the repair projects delivered have resulted in a significant impact within the town centre Conservation Area, and hopefully assist with the development of robust and sustainable regeneration opportunities for the future.



Hawick CARS

Hawick CARS formally launched in October 2019 and has been extended for an additional year due to Covid-19 until March 2025. Nine grant repair projects are now complete and an additional 5 small grants (2 properties) have been awarded funding over the course of 2022/23. The projects currently offered grant funding and/or are complete provide a significant impact to the town centre due to their location and prominence on the high street.

Hawick CARS is also working with property owners to develop priority building repair projects at six locations in the town centre, and there are two priority buildings currently on site which are on the buildings at risk register (BARR). With 26 High Street complete in Summer 2021, Hawick CARS were delighted to be able to offer grant funding to 80 High Street (the former Liberal Club) with an intervention rate of 90% in September 2022. The works were due to be completed end of April 2023. This will secure the occupied areas of the building for the future. The main Liberal Club is however still to be developed, which will take the building off the buildings at risk register. SBC applied for a levelling up grant to help support the works required for this part of the building, however the application was unsuccessful. Progress is hoped in the coming year, once the sale of the building has gone through with a new developer/owner in sight.





View from top of 80, High Street, Hawick



View to turret, overlooking Hawick town.

Hawick CARS were also able to offer grant funding to another priority building – Glenmac Mill, Hawick. This work was due to start in April 2023 and due for completion Autumn 2023 to tie in with the flood protection works and the Hawick CARS public realm project currently being developed with the appointed external consultants and funded by the heritage scheme.

A complimentary missing shares initiative is available and delivered by SBC. This is a pilot scheme to run alongside Hawick CARS, originally for two years but now extended to the duration of the scheme. The scheme supports willing owners by paying the missing share of the contribution for essential works and recovers the cost.

Empty Homes

SBC continue to work with the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership to achieve significant outcomes in relation to developing processes for engaging with owners and maximising opportunities to assist owners getting their properties back into use. Some of the work carried out during the LHS have included:

- Developed an updated empty homes profile for the Scottish Borders which will provide a more complete picture of empty homes within the region.

- SBC developed a Matchmaker Scheme to help connect people wishing to sell an empty home with people who want to buy them.
- Providing advice in relation to potential VAT exemptions available for qualifying repairs
- Advice on any potential funding opportunities such as the rural housing fund where these are applicable
- Council tax is levied at 200% on long term empty homes (over one year). Officers provide discretion on this higher level of Council Tax can be applied where a package of work to return the property to use is agreed.
- Providing information on SBC's website

An example of bringing an empty property back into use is 121-123 High Street in Selkirk; following a number of development studies which did not progress, Eildon Housing Association started work to redevelop this long term empty former shop and flats to provide 10 new build flats. This project was assisted by a Scottish Government housing grant and was completed in 2019.



121-123 High Street, Selkirk

SBC officers were involved in a property at High Street, Coldstream, where officer's guidance and specialist advice helped an owner to progress works and secure VAT exemptions. Support was also provided to assist the owner's application for the rural housing fund, with the intention of assisting the owner with bridging any funding deficit in the renovation of the listed property bringing it back into use.

As an example, SBC supported work at a property at Chapel Street, Eyemouth lying within the town's conservation area and listed on the buildings at risk register. Guidance and specialist advice has helped the owner to progress works, and secure VAT exemptions.



High Street, Coldstream



Empty Homes: Before and after shots of the exterior of a renovated empty home at Chapel Street, Eyemouth



Before and after shots of the interior at Chapel Street, Eyemouth

Scottish Borders Council appointed a dedicated Empty Homes Officer in August of 2021, who currently has an active case load of 182 empty homes. Over the last 18 months the Empty Homes Officer has been making connections with owners, neighbours and communities being affected by empty homes.

Efforts have also been taken to ensure owners of Empty Homes are aware of all the support available to them including merchant discounts via The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership and potential VAT reductions and exemptions where applicable. As well as providing advice regarding council tax status and supporting applications of discretion where owners are active in bringing a home back into use.

Further development of the existing Matchmaker scheme, to assist in connecting those looking to sell empty homes to those looking to buy projects to bring back into use. The intention behind this is to further promote the scheme with empty homes owners looking to sell.

In taking a data lead approach, work has been undertaken to review the data held on the empty homes within the Scottish Borders, which will create a framework for future activity.

In understanding the issues around why homes become empty, the burden of cost is often cited as the greatest reason why action is not being taken. Following appointment to the role, work was undertaken towards launching an Empty Homes Grant Scheme which will provide financial support directly to owners.



The SBC Empty Home Grant Scheme was officially launched in September 2022. The Grant Scheme has been well received and we currently have 16 applications for a variety of empty homes across the Scottish Borders, 12 of which will become affordable rental homes.

In the first year of dedicated resource being applied to empty homes, we have seen 18 empty homes being brought back into use through direct officer activity. Through the successful building of the empty homes caseload we expect to see many more homes come back into use supported by the Empty Homes Officer.

The Empty Homes Office also presented at the Scottish Empty Homes Partnerships annual conference, highlighting the issues of Empty Homes in the Scottish Borders and the actions we are taking to bring these homes back into use. The following year our officer was nominated for the SEHP Rising Star Award at the Scottish Empty Homes Conference 2023.

3. Good Quality and Energy Efficient Homes

Addressing Priority 2: More People Live in Good Quality, Energy Efficient Homes

Key Achievements:

- The Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy (AWHEEs) 2019-2023 was implemented.
- SBC allocated £9.2m in grant funding from Scottish Government for EES:ABS Programme
- Energy efficiency schemes in the Borders between 2017 and 20223 have resulted in 1,870 installed measures across 1,553 households.
- Each RSL has prioritised investment towards meeting EESSH, which resulted in £12.1m over the 5 year period of the LHS. 89.3% of RSL stock meets EESSH.
- 4 of Eildon Housing Association's affordable housing projects have been selected for inclusion in the Green Homes Pilot. The 1st Passivhaus development comprising 3 houses in St Boswells were completed in March 2020.
- The Borders Home Energy Forum was established in March 2018
- The Energy Efficient Scotland (EES) Pilot Project was developed in Peebles – 'Change Works in Peebles'. Over 1,400 people visited the hub and there have been over 500 referrals to HES
- SBC secured 2 years of funding worth £551,000, from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund to deliver the "Warm and Well Borders" project. This project has now been extended for 24 months.
- SBC has partnered with Partnership with Landlord Accreditation Scotland (LAS) to provide one landlord forum per year and a number of training events throughout the year.
- Through the Scheme of Assistance, 172 instances of practical assistance were given in the private sector including advice on repair and maintenance; empty homes advice; support to landlords and tenants and, as a last resort, enforcement
- To help progress shared repairs, in 2019 SBC agreed to pilot a Missing Shares Scheme.

COVID-19 Impact

COVID-19 presented a number of challenges involving delivering energy efficiency programmes across both the private and social sectors. This was due to works being put on hold due to lockdowns and restrictions, as well as delays with supply of Air Source Heat Pump units due to a slowdown in production as a result of social distancing guidelines within the manufacturing plant.

Private sector property inspections were impacted as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, and were carried out virtually, with in-person inspections only carried out in the event of emergencies. The pandemic also impacted on training events, with an event scheduled for June 2021 cancelled – however, online training for landlords was offered at a later date.

The pandemic also impacted on the delivery of CARS, the Scheme of Assistance and Missing Shares initiatives where delivery was impacted by periods of lockdown and difficulty securing contractors. These effects began to ease as lockdowns became less frequent and restrictions lessened.

Climate Emergency

On the 25th September 2020 Scottish Borders Council declared a climate emergency and committed to a target of net carbon zero in line with government targets. The commitment adds further impetus to the need for an active delivery of the Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy (AWHEES).

The climate declaration supports the national commitment to achieving a net carbon zero in Scotland by 2045. The Scottish Borders can play its part in this by providing more energy efficient housing and affordable warmth as well as promoting decarbonisation, energy efficiency, sustainability and renewable technology within the region.

The Council developed a climate change route map in 2021, which shows a pathway to climate change resilience and to net zero emissions for the Scottish Borders, over a 25-year horizon. It does this by identifying the biggest causes of greenhouse gas emissions in the Scottish Borders and what the Council and partners have already done to combat these and what they are planning to do in the future.

Borders Home Energy Forum

The Borders Home Energy Forum was established in March 2018, to ensure that a strategic, multi-agency approach is taken to help reduce fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency and improve health and well-being in the Scottish Borders, particularly for the most vulnerable households. The creation of the Borders Home Energy Forum was designed to align with the work of Scottish Government work on the tightening of climate change targets, and is designed to reflect a local experience of energy efficiency and fuel poverty issues and the emerging national policy position.

The Partnership comprises organisations representing housing associations, statutory bodies, advisory groups, bodies associated with energy, affordable warmth, health and income maximisation, and representatives from Scottish Borders Council.

The forum continues to attract new members as more groups are established in the region to address climate change challenges and promote energy efficiency and affordable warmth within local communities. The Forum has acted as a catalyst for building collective support for ongoing strategies including;

- Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy
- EES:ABS and the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH)
- Funding opportunities such as the Warm and Well project
- Joint proposals have been planned and submitted by RSLs
- Upcoming funding opportunities are being discussed proactively and in advance of calls being released
- Facilitated the recent establishment of a new Construction Sector and Supply Chain Forum
- LHEES. Awareness of Scottish Government requirements and facilitate joint working and identifying areas of opportunity

It has additionally served as a platform to promote and facilitate measures and schemes that target alleviating fuel poverty and increasing energy efficiency in households; as well as improving health and wellbeing. The forum has continued to meet online and has been able to have guest speakers and new members attend the meetings. We have had ongoing attendance from the Highlands & Islands Housing Forum (and in turn attending their forum meetings) which continues to facilitate knowledge sharing and highlighting common issues that rural areas face while collectively seeking solutions. This has been especially useful during the recent energy cost increases.

Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy

To support Priority 2 of the LHS the Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy (AWHEEs) was launched in 2019. The Strategy runs to 2023 and is reviewed regularly by the Borders Home Energy Forum. It takes lead and inspiration from commitments on fuel poverty and home energy efficiency, as well as the ongoing wider Scottish Government support, to provide an effective Strategy that delivers for all in the Scottish Borders.

AWHEES continued to be a key strategy for SBC. The Scottish Borders Home Energy Forum continued to meet remotely during pandemic and supported the sharing of best practice by stakeholders during these difficult times which was invaluable. The Forum continues to inform delegates and share updates and best practice which, during the Covid pandemic was valuable in understanding responses to restrictions and how to best service householders and tenants.

The Strategy provides actions to deliver affordable warmth for those that need it most, and a commitment to increase the energy efficiency of all homes regardless of circumstance – providing multiple benefits that reach out to the householder, providers and the wider supply chain.

Covering the period 2019-23, the Vision is that ‘more people live in energy efficient and affordably warm homes’. The Priorities that work towards fulfilling this Vision are:

- Priority 1: To collectively work with our partners to improve affordable warmth and energy efficiency in homes.
- Priority 2: To explore wider measures to better manage energy and increase warmth in the home.
- Priority 3: To ensure that the AWHEEs provides opportunities for all in the Scottish Borders.

The first three years of this Strategy have now been implemented and a separate update report is currently being prepared. Core priorities have been successfully progressed through the LHS and supporting AWHEES, these include:

- Increase in EPC ratings across all tenures and wards
- Insulation levels (cavity wall, solid wall and loft) have all increased
- Increase in EESSH compliance within Social Housing Sector
- Establishment of Construction Forum to support local supply chain and build on outputs of Home Energy Forum
- Two years extension to the Warm & Well programme offering support advice and income maximisation to Borders households, particularly those in Fuel Poverty
- Increase spend and allocation on EES:ABS
- Development and introduction of renewable technologies into EES:ABS

SBC’s ongoing support and activity in relation to affordable warmth and energy efficiency will continue to be prioritised through the Local Housing Strategy, as a statutory requirement. This will be further supported by development and then delivery of a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, which must be in place by the end of December 2023. This will be identified as key action in the LHS 2023-2028.



Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES)

Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) will be a key strategy and delivery programme for all local authorities to provide a long-term plan for decarbonising heat in buildings and improving energy efficiency across an entire local authority area. The 2 core drivers are:

- Reduce energy demand
- Decarbonise heat supply

LHEES are a place based, locally-led and tailored approach, covering a period of up to 20 years, with detailed actions set out in shorter term (5 year) Delivery Plans.

Every building in the region will be assessed and have a plan to enable energy use reduction. Scottish Borders Council will consolidate energy reduction strategies, schemes and future plans within a cohesive overarching strategy. The LHEES cover all sectors: Domestic, Non-Domestic & Public Buildings and provides a framework for taking an area-based approach to heat and energy efficiency planning and delivery.

SBC participated in a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) pilot for Peebles in 2018/19. The LHEES pilot project proved to be an interesting and worthwhile undertaking and allowed officers to gain a greater understanding of the process involved in undertaking an LHEES. Previous experience and activity in relation to this LHS will inform development. SBC appointed consultants to support development of the LHEES ahead of delivery phase commencing in 2024. To focus the delivery SBC will recruit a dedicated LHEES Coordinator in 2023.

SBC are working with Scottish Government and internal colleagues to develop the LHEES in line with government timings and prescribed phased approach, taking due consideration of the LHEES priorities for delivery. SBC will be engaging with key regional stakeholders and ensuring that the LHEES aligns with ongoing and existing priorities and council strategies and areas of delivery such as Climate Change and Sustainability. SBC procured for and appointed a dedicated consultant to support with the data analysis and identification of opportunity zones that are core to a structured and data led LHEES. Changeworks will support SBC across both LHEES and the EES:ABS scheme. This is particularly useful and relevant when looking at fuel poverty and domestic properties.

Energy Efficient Scotland (EES) Pilot Project

Energy Efficient Scotland is the renaming of Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP). The purpose of the 20 year roadmap is to define a set of actions aimed at making Scotland's buildings near net zero carbon by 2050, in a way that is socially and economically feasible. It considers two main policy areas; fuel poverty and climate change. The two main objectives are to:

1. Remove poor energy efficiency as a driver for fuel poverty
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through more energy efficient buildings and the decarbonisation of heat supply

Funding was made available to Local Authorities to pilot different approaches to EES.

In 2017 the Council commissioned Changeworks to support delivery of the new Energy Efficient Pilot project in Peebles. Through this funding the 'Change Works in Peebles' project was developed – a locally based project working to pilot new approaches to energy efficiency within the community. The project was centred on helping to reduce costs and improve warmth in local homes, schools and



**Change Works
in Peebles**

organisations. Peebles was chosen as it was shown to be a high energy use town with fuel bills 14% higher than the national average and annual median gas use 12% higher than the Scottish Borders average.

The project offered the local community face to face advice and support via a hub on Peebles High Street, with a varied programme of events and workshops on topics like insulation, draught-proofing and ways to reduce energy usage and bills. By 2019 over 1,400 people had visited the hub (including repeat visits and multiple person visits) and there had been over 500 referrals to Home Energy Scotland for support. Workshops and events were carried out regularly, with a survey of local businesses carried out, school interviews completed for the capital works programme and research done across the supply chain on barriers and opportunities to implement energy efficiency measures.



The grant also funded a Changeworks Senior Education Officer to engage with schools in Peebles to support the area-based approach to energy efficiency – including meetings with school Heads, and development of a programme including energy assemblies and workshops during the school year.

The CWiP (Change Works in Peebles hub) was extended in 2018-19 to cover the whole of Tweeddale until the end of the pilot in June 2020, focussing specifically on behavioural change and in engaging with local householders and businesses to reduce energy consumption and fuel bills as well as increasing the uptake of energy efficiency measures.

This was seen as the first stage of covering all five localities during the funded period of Energy Efficient Scotland, with a primary target of owner occupiers with an EPC banding lower than C.

Additionally, workshops and events were held regularly; a survey of all Peebles based businesses has been carried out; Peebles High School had received £400,000 funding and support through the capital works programme and Energy Efficient Scotland funding; there has been research across the supply chain on barriers and opportunities to implement energy efficiency measures.

Given the Covid-19 restrictions the scheme was unable to build upon the community engagement work delivered previously, although lessons were still learned in how to engage using alternative methods, typically using social media and digital technologies.

Scottish Federation of Housing Associations £2m Fuel Poverty Fund for RSLs

Eildon Housing Association successfully led a joint bid in 2020/21 by all 4 Scottish Borders Registered Social Landlords to secure £450k from the Scottish Government's £2m Fuel Poverty fund. This significant 'one off' funding is meant to have a real impact in tackling fuel poverty, with funding being allocated on a pro-rate basis of housing stock and in two lots:

- Immediate payment of large-scale arrears of £50-£1000 per household. Payment will be made direct to the energy supplier and all RSLs will have a pro rata split for this purpose. It was estimated that around 200 people across all RSLs would benefit from this
- Ring-fenced funding which is held by the Fuel Bank Foundation who can issue vouchers to tenants throughout the rest of the year. These vary from £30 in the summer to £49 in the winter months.

Energy Efficient Standard for Social Housing (EESH) and EESH2

The Energy Efficient Standard for Social Housing (EESH) aims to improve the energy efficiency of social housing in Scotland. Social landlords are required to reach a set energy efficiency rating for a household based on the housing type and fuel type used to heat it. The first milestone (EESH 1) is for all applicable social housing to reach the minimum rating of no lower than an EPC C or D by 31st December 2020.

The original EESH aimed to improve the energy efficiency levels of social housing, to help reduce energy consumption, fuel poverty and the emission of greenhouse gases. An additional milestone was introduced in June 2019 (EESH2) which laid out more stringent targets for energy efficiency, stating that:

“All social housing meets, or can be treated as meeting, EPC Band B (Energy Efficiency Rating), or is as energy efficient as practically possible, by the end of December 2032 and within the limits of cost, technology and necessary consent. “

Berwickshire Housing Association	81.1%
Eildon Housing Association	91.4%
Scottish Borders Housing Association	92%
Waverley Housing	92.5 %

The challenge facing RSLs in the immediate future is the current, national review of the EESH2, which should be concluded later in 2023.

RSLs will continue to develop and deliver scheduled maintenance and improvement programmes to address the anticipated EESH2 standards across their housing stock. EESH 2 represents a much higher EPC standard and will be more challenging and costly for RSLs to attain. The higher EPC reflects the government’s wider push for more energy efficient housing across Scotland.

SBHA, for example, is currently developing its Sustainability Strategy and working on the plan for EESH2. In 2022/23, Greenskye Energy carried out £822,000 of funded energy efficiency works for SBHA, saving approximately 2.3m tonnes of carbon in that time.

Warm & Well Borders

Scottish Borders Council secured two years of funding in 2019/20, worth £551,000, from National Grid’s Warm Homes Fund to deliver the “Warm and Well Borders” project. The project is being delivered through a partnership between Scottish Borders Council, Changeworks, three local Citizens Advice Bureau, Home Energy Scotland, health and social care teams and community health organisations. Warm and Well Borders is supporting fuel poor households to live affordably warm at home by tackling high fuel bills, fuel debt, and supporting skills to be in better control of energy costs as well as building resilience to tackle the causes of fuel poverty.



Covid-19 had a huge impact on the delivery of the scheme due to the constraints put in place through social distancing. Working with the funder, the scheme delivery team were able to adapt support methods incredibly well, adopting alternative approaches including digital and online support as well as interviews with householders has

been effective. The scheme was able to support 771 households and secured benefits and savings of £1.2 million for households across the region.

Primarily focussing on supporting householders in or at risk of fuel poverty, as the increasingly concern and uncertainty over energy price increases came into effect, more people within the region were impacted by fuel poverty drivers. The importance of the scheme and the support was increasingly required.

Following on from the initial success in the two year pilot, Warm and Well have been working with SBC colleagues and have been able to secure a further 24 months extension of the scheme in partnership with the Borders Citizens Advice Bureau. This has enabled the great work and support the service provides to continue, particularly in instances of fuel poverty and uncertainty around energy price increases.

SBC & CABs Warm and Well 2022/23 has been able to engage 398 households, with 198 cases resolved with a positive outcome and secured benefits and savings of £1.36 million for households across the region. As the scheme enters 2023/24 delivery the need for front line support in response to increased cost of living and energy costs is as vital as ever.

RSLs

SBHA's Warm and Well Coordinator supported 621 tenants in 2022/23 against a target of 350, and issued 1,171 fuel vouchers worth more than £55,000 to SBHA tenants. They also made 130 fuel debt payments, totalling £159,763. The Borders Housing Network (BHN) plans to expand on this work in 2023/24, thanks to a grant of £84,000 from the Scottish Borders Council Cost of Living Fund – with recruitment of a new advisor to support all RSLs in the BHN currently underway.

Scottish Borders Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Schemes (EES: ABS)

Scottish Government funding for private home energy efficiency improvements is known as the Energy Efficient Scotland Area Based Scheme (EES: ABS). The funding enables investment in: external and internal wall insulation; cavity wall insulation; loft insulation; and underfloor insulation. As well as offering insulation and fabric first measures the scheme will also aim to deliver more renewable technology in off gas grid areas, such as Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV and Battery Storage systems. The intention is to continue to offer a blend of insulation and renewable technologies.

The Council works in partnership with Changeworks to deliver Energy Efficiency Programmes – Area Based Schemes (EES:ABS), building on the strong relationships established over previous years. This partnership allows the Council to benefit from the expertise required to maximise the effectiveness of this project and to build on the successful outcomes delivered to date. The schemes follow an area based approach with focus on the most fuel poor area and households, drawing on a range of data including index of multiple deprivation, child poverty, the Scottish House Condition Survey, heat mapping and local knowledge.

Programmes typically involve the installation of 'fabric first' external wall insulation (EWI), internal wall insulation (IWI) as well as cavity wall insulation. In the last few years the scope of measures has been widened with renewable technology like Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) and Solar Photovoltaic and battery storage (PV battery) becoming more common through the scheme.

Over the period of 2017/18 to 2022/23 the programmes has successfully delivered over £9.22m of investment in energy efficient measures for households in the Scottish Borders. The EES:ABS programme was awarded £1.786m in 2021/22 and £1.8m in 2022/23. Council outputs show that from April 2017 to March 2023, 1,870 measures were installed across the Scottish Borders, supporting over 1,553 households –these totals are including the forecasted totals for 2022/23. Table 3 shows a summary of investment and

the number of measures installed and households supported from 2017/18 to 2022/23, as well as reference investment levels for 2023/24.

Table 3: Investment in EES: ABS in the Last 6 years						
Households assisted by EES: ABS	EES: ABS investment levels	Measures installed	Households supported	Estimated Annual Fuel Bill Savings	Estimated Lifetime Fuel Bill Savings	CO 2 reductions tonnes
2017/18	£1.23m	735	623	£172,618	£6,386,866	719
2018/19	£1.34m	428	387	£53,360	£2,049,960	231
2019/20	£1.35m	100	81	£45,110	£1,588,360	190
2020/21	£1.72m	195	176	£23,360	£904,320	94
2021/22	£1.78m	192	116	£15,400*	£539,000*	132
2022/23	£1.8m	220	170	£22,610*	£791,350*	193* (tbc)
2023/24	£1.82m	TBC	TBC			

Source: SBC and Changeworks monitoring data

Tracking the annual savings across the last two years of the EES:ABS scheme has been extremely difficult due to the unprecedented energy pricing landscape. The Energy Price cap has been increasing across the period of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. These figures are set by the government and relate to the expected average household energy use. The Energy Saving Trust, who provide average use figures, take these UK Government's Energy Price Guarantee average prices for gas and electricity. As most households in the UK are currently paying prices set by the UK Government. The lifetime savings are then based on the current average cost. However, these changed several times across the reporting period.

With the Guaranteed Energy Price Guarantee and price cap changing quarterly in response to the crisis, remodelling and reviewing typical savings, either annual or lifetime, has become more challenging. As such, we have modelled the savings for years 21/22 & 22/23 in the above table on the figure and averages used before the pandemic and the subsequent increases to the Energy Price Guarantee and Price Cap. These are for indicative and illustrative purposes. While the energy market is subject to ongoing fluctuation, we can revisit these figures to present an averaged considered figure although these will be caveated by the unprecedented market conditions experienced at this time.

The EES:ABS continues to be a core delivery channel for addressing fuel poverty and promoting affordable warmth across the region. The funding allocated to SBC for EES:ABS has steadily increased. EES:ABS has provided varied insulation schemes and the continuing need to offer Internal Wall Insulation given the regions housing stock (i.e. older, solid walled properties that are unsuitable for cavity insulation).

As part of a commitment to decarbonisation, and increasingly electrification, of heating there has been and will continue to be a focus on delivering renewable technologies in the region. Starting in 2019/2020 and each year since, there have been projects installing Air Source Heat Pumps, Solar Photovoltaics and Battery Storage.

Renewable technology and insulation which enables more economic use of heating energy are both key factors in supporting climate change mitigation within the region. The 2022/23 EES:ABS scheme saw a successful funding application of £1.8 Million for the region and we are approaching the final delivery stages of the current scheme year. Looking ahead to 2023/24, SBC have been allocated £1.82 million to

deliver the next EES:ABS cycle which is an increase on the previous years. The proposal is to again include insulation and renewable technologies within the scheme delivery.

External Wall Insulation Measures Installed in the Scottish Borders



Innerleithen 2018/19



Town Yetholm 2019/20



Before and after - Langlee 2020/21



Kelso 2021/22

Home Energy Scotland Referrals

Home Energy Scotland (HES) is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust to provide free and impartial advice on ways to save energy, reduce fuel bills and make homes cheaper and easier to heat.



They have a network of five advice centres across Scotland to help them reach householders, community organisations, businesses and local authorities in order to reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions. One advice centre covers the South East of Scotland and has good contacts and knowledge of the Borders.

SBC and stakeholders will always look to signpost or recommend householders speak to HES regarding energy matters and wider energy advice. The service acts as a referral mechanism to enable local householders to register for schemes such as EES:ABS and Warm & Well where appropriate.

They can provide advice on energy efficiency, switching suppliers, renewables, saving water, sustainable transport and refer people for benefits and tax checks. With increased concern and uncertainty due to increasing energy costs this service is as important as ever. Table 4 shows interactions data from Home Energy Scotland for the Scottish Borders between 2018/18 and 2021/22, with 2022/23 data still pending. Event numbers have been impacted by COVID restrictions, but there has been a big increase in social media and email interactions.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Inbound calls	934	1,245	1,130	1,039	1,130
Outbound calls	705	977	558	2,330	1,141
Events	1,379	945	516	43	17
Other (e.g. emails, letters, home visits)	2,106	2,244	2,973	2,089	4,103
Total advice interactions	5,124	5,411	5,117	5,501	6,391

Eildon Housing Association's Green Homes Pilot

Eildon Housing Association have been leading on the Green Homes Pilot with Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC) and supported by SBC, where a variety of modern energy efficient building techniques and styles are being utilised in their projects and post installation studies will be completed. The project aims to determine a new-build comparison program with different home types that can be monitored as they are designed and built and thereafter. Eildon Housing Association secured £100,000 from Construction Scotland Innovation Centre and Scottish Borders Council to carry out action based research and independent evaluation known as the "Green House Pilot".

Four of Eildon's affordable housing projects have been selected for inclusion in the Pilot, which will involve the design, development and delivery of around 30 homes, using three different energy efficient solutions such as Passivhaus, Energiesprong and off-site construction/volumetric design, alongside a 12



Passivhaus Development, St Boswells

hour traditional build “control” project. Construction on these homes started in March 2021, which follows on from the first Passivhaus development comprising 3 houses at Springfield Terrace St Boswells which was completed in March 2020.

Independent monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken by the Mackintosh Environmental Architecture Research Unit within the Mackintosh School of Architecture. The outcomes of the research will inform the Association’s new build design guide and its approach to component replacement and energy efficiency in existing properties. It will also influence the Association’s Rent Setting Policy. Eildon Housing Association propose to share the experience gained with other Registered Social Landlords and Councils across Scotland.

Community Wind Farm

The Hoprigshiels community windfarm – “Fishermen Three” – is located near Cockburnspath in the Scottish Borders and is a joint venture between Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA) and Community Energy Scotland. By supplying energy to the National Grid, the wind farm creates revenue for BHA of around £20 million over the next 25 years – enough to allow them to build 500 new homes over that period.

The amount of energy the windfarm produced in its first year is equivalent to the annual energy needs of 7,758 homes according to Ofgem figures, meaning it’s powering the equivalent of all of the Berwickshire Housing Association homes, and a further 6,000 households in the area.



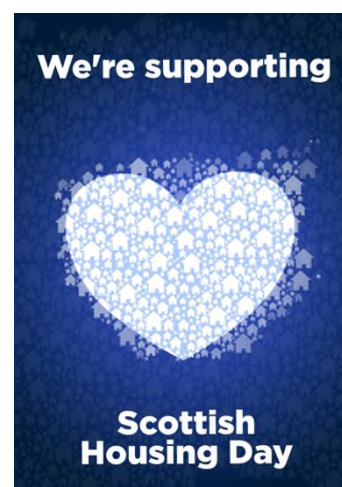
For the 2017/18 year of operation, the wind farm paid £18,750 to Cockburnspath Community Fund and £18,750 to Oldhamstocks Community Fund, or £37,500 in total.

Scottish Housing Day

Scottish Housing Day was held again on the 14th of September 2022 and marked the seventh annual Scottish Housing Day by celebrating the impact that housing makes to the lives of people and communities across the region as well as raising awareness with residents on the housing options available to them. The key focus on Housing Day was sustainable.

Councillor Robin Tatler, Scottish Borders Council Executive Member for Communities and Equalities said:

“I’m delighted we are recognising the value of social housing by taking part in Scottish Housing Day for another year. The importance of everyone having access to a safe and affordable place to call home has become more significant than ever after the pandemic.”



Information on housing was again published widely across Scottish Borders Council social media platforms to share advice, information and awareness of all services SBC and partners offer in terms of housing, homelessness and housing related services.

Private Landlord Registration

All private landlords and their agents are required to register with the local authority in which they let their property. Landlord registration allows local authorities to control and regulate who can operate legitimately as a private landlord. This provides Scottish Borders Council with an effective tool for dealing with the worst performing landlords who, by their behaviour and attitude, mismanage their properties or fail to act in respect of their anti-social tenants affecting their own tenants, neighbours and communities.

As of January 2023 there were 4,637 registered landlords, and 7,367 properties in the Scottish Borders. Scottish Borders Council also has 56 licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Whilst the private Rented Sector registered remains relatively stable the last few years have seen a slight decrease in registered properties in the Scottish Borders. Despite this the PRS is still vital in meeting housing need in the Scottish Borders, making up 14% of all properties in the area, compared to 15% nationally.

Statutory guidance emphasises the importance of liaising with private landlords and their tenants, including considering a range of actions to help landlords reach the standards required in privately letting properties, and keeping them informed of any changes in legislation. In recent years emphasis has shifted from registration enforcement to liaison and support services for landlords and tenants. The service provided is focused on engagement, and enforcement is applied as a last resort.

Key engagement activities of the Private Rented Sector Liaison and Enforcement Officer include:

- Addressing repairing standard issues, advice is provided to landlords following property inspection. Raising awareness of obligation in this regard promotes stewardship, encourages swift remedial action and reduces the requirement for enforcement action which can be divisive.
- Scrutinising prescribed information provided on applications and liaising with landlords where there are anomalies. This is an important point of engagement, landlords are offered guidance on legislation relating to letting properties. Rental properties are being improved as a result and landlords also gain a better understanding of the obligations when letting in the private sector.
- Prescribed information also includes for the provision of Energy Performance Certificates. Landlords are becoming increasingly aware of the need for energy efficiency and proposed future energy standards affecting the rental market. Advice and support is offered through our liaison service.
- To continue providing good quality homes and high management standards in the private rented sector, Scottish Borders Council are committed to support Landlords with information and advice. To support that activity we have partnered with Landlord accreditation to provide tailored annual training events locally and a landlord forum. This presents an opportunity to share best practice and any regulatory change on the horizon.

Key Achievements

- Landlord Forums:
Held locally in 2018 & 2019 highlighting changes in the sector both locally and national. Speakers on the day discussed topics such as: Private residential tenancies, Housing and Property Chamber, Letting agent regulation, GDPR, Universal Credit Rollout and proposed energy efficiency standards. Well received and excellently attended in the Scottish Borders. Since, delivery has been affected by COVID-19, however the next landlord forum is planned for autumn of 2023.



- Partnered with LAS to provide local and accredited training events ,
 - Hawick 2019, on Tenancy Agreements and Notices for private landlords and letting agents
 - October 2019, on Property Condition & Property Management
 - November 2022, Online webinars for Tenancy Management, covering communication with tenants and GDPR and antisocial behaviour
- COVID-19 meant that training was moved to a virtual classroom, making it more accessible for many landlords. Two events were held during the pandemic, one on property condition & property management, and another on tenancy management during COVID-19.
- Throughout the pandemic Officers supported landlords by providing the latest Scottish Government Guidance; information on financial help available and how to go about daily landlord activities. This information is also made available on our website and regularly updated throughout the pandemic. Revision of procedure. We always strive to improve on procedure. An example included the introduction of an additional courtesy expiry reminder letter to lessen number of landlords missing their renewal date. This improved renewals and greatly reduced the numbers of complaints raised due to the Scottish Governments automatically applied late fees.
- The introduction of prescribed information within the application for registration has resulted in a large volume of landlords requiring advice in regard to their obligations. A new procedure has been devised ultimately ensuring landlords are proficiency in regard to their requirement to operate and correctly when providing homes in the Scottish Borders.
 - As a last resort Rent Penalty Notices are used (RPN) which suspend the rent liability of a tenant living in an unregistered property
 - Fit and proper person tests are used to provide a level of assurance that the landlord or agent is a suitable person to let privately rented property. It is a standard that all private landlords are required to uphold throughout the time that they operate as a private landlord.

The Enforcement Officer has dealt with 166 cases in relation to repairs issues and management practices over the same period (an average of 33 per year). The Enforcement Officer has helped to ensure landlords comply with all the legislation and has helped to improve the management and building standards in the private rented sector.

Throughout the year courtesy reminder letters are now sent to landlords prior to the expiration of their registration – with 2,184 courtesy final reminders being sent from 2020/21 to 2022/23. This has resulted in

fewer complaints in regard to late fees being applied. There have also been 1,597 follow up actions taken in relation to late registrations since 2018/19, which includes letters, phone calls and visits. In addition, records in regards to prescribed information are being kept to that targeted advice can be provided to landlords to assist them with these forms, which has been supported by 2,532 instances of support and advice surrounding issues such as prescribed information and tenancies.

The Private Landlord Registration pages on the corporate website are updated to ensure that robust and accurate information is available to members of the public. The Council has also continued to run training events in conjunction with LAS, including moving over to virtual events during the COVID pandemic. It is planned to restart regular in-person forums and training opportunities for landlords in the near future.

Scheme of Assistance

The Scheme of Assistance helps to achieve the Local Housing Strategy's vision, with particular contribution to Priorities 1, 2 and 4. These priorities are supported through a range of services which:

- Help older people and people with disabilities who are living in the private sector to make adaptations to their homes ensuring that they are able to live in a safe environment within their own property (Priority 4)
- Working with Environmental Health and Building Standards to address disrepair in private sector homes (Priority 2)
- Ensuring that properties in the Private Rented Sector meet the repairing standard and providing advice to both tenants and landlords about their rights and responsibilities
- Support owners of empty property to bring them back into use (Priority 1 & 2)

The Scheme of Assistance offers:

- Information and advice for private sector housing residents on home repairs, maintenance, improvements and adaptations.
- Common repairs work, engaging with and bringing together multiple owners to resolve complex repairs.
- Working with Building Standards to deliver enforcement work
- Financial help to cover some (or all) of the costs of eligible major adaptations.
- Information and advice to support empty homes owners to bring them back into use.

During the period 2017/18-2022/23 practical assistance was provided to 172 cases, including repair and maintenance, empty homes advice, support to landlords and tenants and enforcement. General information was also provided in regard to private property condition concerns.

The Scheme of assistance also supported Scottish Borders Councils effort to house displaced persons from Ukraine by helping develop a housing standard inspection process and co-ordinating 136 property visits.

Missing Shares Scheme

Under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 a local authority can consider paying a missing share where the majority of owners have agreed to carry out necessary common repairs and maintenance but they cannot progress the repair because either an owner is unable or is unwilling to pay or it is unreasonable to require the owner to deposit the sum in question or where the owner cannot be identified or found by reasonable inquiry. This can hold up much needed repairs.

Under this scheme and, depending on the circumstances and eligibility criteria, the Council could choose to pay a missing share on behalf of an owner and recover the contribution, which means owners can get on

with repairs. To those with a legal and shared responsibility for repair Missing Shares is intended as a disincentive to non-participation. It allows for administration and interest fees to be applied. To avoid additional costs generally (as reported nationally) this generally results in participation.

In 2019 the Council agreed to pilot a Missing Shares Scheme in the Scottish Borders, initially targeting the Hawick Conservation Area over a two year period. The Missing Shares scheme operates in tandem with the Scheme of Assistance and primarily supports activity through the approved Hawick Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (Hawick CARS). Progress in delivery of the scheme was impacted by COVID-19, and has since been extended until the 31st of March 2025 to mirror the duration of the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme.

Currently the pilot is aligned principally to support the activities of CARS. If non-participation in CARS is experienced the threat of missing shares, including associated cost and the additional disincentive of missing out on grants, has meant that provision of a share has remained untested. However as an incentive to act missing shares remains an important mechanism.

Housing works in tandem with CARS in relation to common repair approaches and with instances of support included within the Scheme of Assistance numbers reported. Currently there is one 'live' case where a missing share seems likely, supporting a priority tenement containing 5 'flats' within Hawick town centre

The intention in the first year of the new proposed LHS is to review and update the Scheme of Assistance. Principally to strengthen our approaches to supporting stewardship but also fully exploring options of enforcement as a last resort. This will also include:

- Improved information advice and guidance, including revision to our webpages
- Partnership working with LAS and Underoneroof
- The introduction of the shared repairs app and trusted trader scheme,
- And proposed rollout of missing shares to other priority areas.

4. Homelessness

Addressing Priority 3: Fewer People are affected by Homelessness

Key achievements:

- Over the past 6 years the average percentage of unintentionally homeless households accessing settled accommodation has been 80%
- Housing support cases that have been closed by SBC Homelessness housing support service and its commissioned service with a positive outcome continues to be consistently above 75%. With a 6 year average of 79%
- No B&B accommodation was used as temporary accommodation during 2020/21 with very limited used being used to deal with high demands for temporary accommodation
- In 2018/19, a new Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership (BHHSP) was established. The key focus of the partnership is on the implementation of the RRTP
- Appointment of the Private Rented Sector Development Officer
- Development of the Scottish Borders RRTP covering a five year period 2019-2024.
- RRTP Officer was appointed in January 2020 with the key role of implementing the aims and objectives of the RRTP
- Housing First pilot was launched in October of 2021. The pilot is funded for 2 years and aims to provide housing and support to 30 households over the two year period.
- Covid-19 had a huge impact on Homelessness Services. (BHHSP) members were on the front line of the crisis and have worked closely throughout the pandemic to ensure that tenants, customers and those at risk of homelessness have continued to receive the services and support they require
- Establishment of Housing Options Protocol for care leavers in 2017/18
- Two Crisis and Housing Intervention Funds were launched in 2020/21 and 2021/22
- The 'Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone' (SHORE) was launched nationally in 2017. The information sharing protocol which was adopted in 2019/2020 in the Scottish Borders

Homelessness Statistics

The service continues to ensure that it meets its statutory duty in both preventing and assessing homelessness and where it as a duty to assist customers that we ensure the best possible sustainable outcome is obtained. In the Scottish Borders, the number of homeless applications has remained steady since 2011/12 as a result of a proactive approach to prevention through the delivery of the Housing Options approach.

This is set against a challenging local landscape in terms of housing affordability, the cost of living crisis and economic fragility.

Table 5 below shows a breakdown of some of the key homelessness statistics over the past six years.



Table 5: Key Homelessness Statistics						
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
No. of approaches to homelessness	862	843	928	767	774	835
No. of people assessed as homelessness	590	629	645	558	578	697
% assessed as homeless	84%	82%	82%	84%	84%	89%
Proportion of homelessness assessments completed within 28 days		87%	83%	86%	89%	85%
% applicants reassessed as homeless in same year	4.5%	3.8%	4.6%	4.9%	2.5%	3%
% young people presenting as homeless	24%	26%	27%	29%	23%	21%
Number accessing Housing Options service	403	268	288	179	774	835
% housing options cases that progress to homeless application	62%	65%	49%	48%	46%	
% unintentionally homeless household access settled accommodation	63%	78%	80%	89%	94%	93%
% RSL lets to homeless households	22%	28%	30%	33%	30%	tbc

Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership (BHHSP)

The Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership (BHHSP) was established in 2018/19. The BHHSP includes senior officers from Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders with responsibility in homelessness, health and social care, public health, social work, property management and housing strategy. The four locally based Registered Social Landlords have representation from senior officers. The BHHSP has a key focus on the implementation of the Scottish Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

Covid-19- Impact

Work and life changed dramatically in 2020/2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic which brought into sharp focus how closely our home, health and wellbeing are connected. Borders Homelessness and Health Partnership (BHHSP) members have been on the front line of the crisis and have worked closely throughout the pandemic to ensure that tenants, customers and those at risk of homelessness have continued to receive the services and support they require. Homelessness services were delivered by telephone wherever possible, however, given the vulnerable nature of many homeless households, face to face access and support was retained where required.

Early actions in response to the pandemic were focused around ensuring homeless or potentially homeless households within the Scottish Borders had suitable accommodation available to them that allowed them to comply with the imposed lockdown measures. Some of the impacts Covid-19 has had on homelessness services, include:

- 50% increase in the 'Homeless Queue' - the number of applicants assessed as Homeless or TWH open to homelessness services on the 31st March 2020 compared to 31st March 2023. This had been reducing prior to the pandemic.
- 40% increase in the number of households residing in temporary homeless accommodation. (31st March 2020 compared to 31st March 2023)
- 26 % reduction in available RSL housing stock in 2020/2021 when compared to 2019/2020 (data from 4 main RSL's)

Although there was a reduction in homeless presentations during the pandemic, applications in 2022/23 were in keeping with pre-pandemic. Partners recognise that this may continue to fluctuate as inflationary pressures and the cost of energy and food continue to have an impact.

As part of the national public health response, local authority homelessness services across the country had temporary additional duties to provide temporary accommodation regardless of an applicant's entitlement

to public funds. Within the Scottish Borders temporary homeless accommodation was provided to one household with no recourse to public funds.

Homelessness services and RSLs worked in partnership to significantly increase the stock of temporary homeless accommodation and ensured homeless applicants had continued access to permanent accommodation and support. This action was essential to ensure that households in the Scottish Borders had access to accommodation during the most challenging times. The impacts of the pandemic continue to be longer lasting than anticipated, and the unprecedented demand for temporary accommodation continued throughout 2022/23.

Changes to legislation relating to the Local Connection which were set to be introduced during 2020/2021 were further delayed into 2022/23.

Test and Protect

As part of the local Test and Protect response, officers from Public Health, local RSLs, and Scottish Borders Council's Safer Communities, Assets and Infrastructure, and homelessness teams worked together to identify and provision a small number of suitable properties for use as alternative accommodation for individuals or families to self-isolate safely and effectively.

East Housing Options HUB

Scottish Borders Council continued to be actively involved with the Scottish Government's East Housing Options HUB which met on a fortnightly basis throughout 2020/2021 and proved to be a vital support during the pandemic response. Funding secured from the East Housing HUB resulted in the launch of a homelessness peer support pilot that is being delivered in conjunction with Penumbra.

Evictions

Eviction bans introduced in response to the pandemic remained in place at the end of 2020/2021, subject to three weekly reviews. In 2019/20, 140 statutory homelessness cases were as a result of an action taken by landlords to terminate a tenancy. This reduced significantly in 2020/2021 to 55 applications. The eviction ban has been extended until at least the 30th of September 2023, it is unknown what the impact of this will be but in order to mitigate this, homeless services and RSLs have continued to provide advice and support to tenants to prevent evictions where possible.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG)

The national Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) was reconvened in June 2020 in response to the coronavirus crisis and further recommendations were proposed to the Scottish Government, these recommendations were considered and an updated Ending Homelessness Together action plan was published in early October 2020.

Following this, 'RRTPs and HARSAG 2020 –What Now? A Short guide for local Authorities', was published on 29th October 2020 and supports the HARSAG recommendations that the 'responsibilities for addressing and preventing homelessness do not sit solely with local authority homelessness teams' and highlight 'the core relationship between health and home, demonstrating that in order to keep people safe we must work collaboratively across all sectors, but also showing that it's possible to do so – and quickly', the guide reflects the four key themes of the HARSAG recommendations;

1. Prioritise Prevention – 'Where Homelessness is predictable it is preventable'
2. Settled Housing Options – 'We all have the potential to live a good life – and home is the best place from which to build it'
3. Equalities competence – 'The risk and impact of homelessness is not distributed equally, or in the same ways, across society'

4. Responsive systems – ‘To end homelessness in Scotland we need an enabling system with no wrong door’

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)

All 32 local authority areas in Scotland were asked to produce Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTPs) by December 2018, for implementation over the 5 years from April 2019. A ‘first iteration’ RRTP was required to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 31 December 2018 and a finalised RRTP completed and submitted by the end of March 2019, ready for commencing implementation from April 2019.

Rapid rehousing is a key component of the whole-system approach whereby the responsibility for tackling homelessness lies not just with Local Authorities but with housing providers, health and social care partnerships and the broad range of organisations that provide support. Housing First is a key element of this.

Development of the Scottish Borders RRTP has been led by the Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership and has included consultation with key partners including the Borders Housing Alliance and the Health and Social Care Integration Strategic Planning Group. Implementation of the RRTP commenced in March 2019 (2019/20), which includes the development of projects to be launched from late 2020 onwards.



A Rapid Rehousing Development Officer was appointed in January 2020 and has played a key role in the implementation of the RRTP and achieving the aims and objectives of the plan.

Despite the pressures arising from the pandemic, RRTP achievements so far include:

- Introduction of a Housing Intervention fund to improve the housing options available to applicants who are in need of intervention due to rent arrears and who often face the prospect of being homeless.
- Introduction of a Homeless Intervention fund which is accessible by front line workers within the homelessness team to use in the prevention or resolution of homelessness. Given the varying and complex reasons for homelessness, any application which demonstrates a contribution to the prevention or faster resolution of homelessness is considered.
- The launch of a two year Housing First pilot
- A temporary increasing the % of RSL let's allocated to homeless households to support reducing the 'homelessness queue'.
- The introduction of a Crash Pad within the homelessness temporary accommodation stock to improve the management and efficiency of the temporary accommodation stock.
- Recruitment of Private Rented Sector Development Officer
- Formalised relationships with Link Housing who have joined the section 5 protocol and offering SBC first refusal on 100% of their lets in the Scottish Borders
- Working closely with RSLs on their revised allocation policies
- Supporting vulnerable individuals who face barriers to digital inclusivity
- Continuing to build on existing local joint pathway arrangements with partners
- Improving Housing Options and Support in the Private Rented Sector (PRS)

While there have been significant achievements, the COVID-19 pandemic had a huge impact on implementation of resources and development of the Borders RRTP. As a result of the delays and impact of Covid-19 and updated emerging guidance, it was agreed that the RRTP action plan should undergo a review

to reconsider the priorities of the BHHSP in light of the pandemic. Following the initial response to the pandemic, focus moved to the RRTP and work began on the 'Ending Homelessness Together' commitments, by progressing the Scottish Borders RRTP with our Housing Association and Health and Social Care partners.

The changing landscape brought about by the Covid-19 emergency and Ukrainian programme and the impact this has had on the development of the RRTP. As a result the BHHSP reviewed the RRTP during 2022/2023 and have set the following outcomes for 2023/2024.

Outcome 1:	Fewer Households experience Homelessness
Outcome 2:	Access to housing for homeless or potentially homeless households is improved across all tenures, and people reach a settled housing outcome as quickly as possible.
Outcome 3:	Homeless Households can access the right support at the right time.
Outcome 4:	All Partners actively contribute to preventing homelessness

Housing First Service

Housing First provides general settle housing as a first response to people with complex needs, recognising that a safe and secure home is the best base for recovery. It offers personalise, open-ended, flexible support for people to end their experience of homelessness and address wider needs.

Scottish Borders Council in partnership with Berwickshire Housing Association, Eildon Housing Association, Scottish Borders Housing Association, Waverley Housing and Cyrenians launched the Scottish Borders Housing First pilot in October 2021 which was funded to run for two years and aimed to provide housing and support to 30 households over the period.

Referrals for the pilot are currently identified by the SBC's Homelessness Team to address the outstanding demand for this support in that domain, however, referrals may be considered from other sources when supply has met this demand.

Cyrenians will complete a formal evaluation of the pilot project in 2023. There is already a significant volume of research and evidence available on the Housing First model so this evaluation will focus on factors specific to the Borders pilot project. Evaluation will include consideration of impact on other services, as far as is possible given data sharing limitations. Evaluation will not include detailed savings analysis but it will include indicative figures for potential medium/long term savings.

All partners are in agreement that early indications are that the project is valuable and is making a significant contribution to helping to keep vulnerable people safe, albeit on a small scale at the moment. It is recognised that future funding options need to be considered now if looking to continue beyond pilot period and these need to be scoped out to inform what is required in the medium to long term to retain the project.

To the 31st of March 2023, 10 Housing First tenancies had commenced, making a significant contribution to helping to keep vulnerable people safe.

'Professional involvement. Team have been helpful and gone out of their way to support our service.'

'Always go above and beyond to help.'

Private Rented Sector (PRS)

A temporary Private Rented Sector Development officer has recently been appointed and will take up post in April 2023. The development officer will embed homelessness prevention principles into the private rented sector in Scottish Borders by taking forward the private sector elements of Rapid Rehousing Transition plan.

The part time, two year temporary post, funded by Ending Homelessness Together funds, will be crucial resource to improve prevention activities for households threatened with homelessness from the private rented sector and improve housing outcomes to the private rented sector in Borders.

The post holder will provide staff with technical, operational support, advice and comprehensive training on the PRS and contribute to policy and strategic change, improvement and development. This includes creating positive relationships with private landlords and other key council departments (i.e. Housing Strategy and Environmental Health) to assess, plan, deliver and evaluate new ways of working.

Temporary Accommodation

As a stock transfer local authority, a strong partnership approach to the provision of temporary accommodation in the Scottish Borders is essential – with 150 properties (owned by the council or sublet from Registered Social Landlords) in 2022/23 which are used as temporary accommodation for homeless people. Table 6 below highlights some of the key figures of people entering temporary accommodation.

Table 6 – Temporary Accommodation Statistics						
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of self-contained temporary accommodation spaces	107	104	106	119	129	150
Number of supported accommodation spaces	8 spaces	8 spaces	8 spaces	2 spaces (reduced due to Covid)	2 spaces	2 spaces
% of households who occupied B&B accommodation	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation	137	151	135	136	163	169

SBC have experienced continued high demand for temporary accommodation after Covid in line with the national trend. In meeting this unprecedented demand SBC have increased temporary accommodation stock levels to 150 temporary accommodation units as at 23rd February 2023. 316 temporary accommodation placement began during 2022/2023, compared to 247 in 2021/2022. The average time spent in temporary accommodation was 169 days. On average, the time spent in accommodation has increased by one month when compared to pre pandemic.

This is in contrast to the aims and objectives outlined within RRTP, however SBC remain committed to the reduction in temporary accommodation numbers and use. The impacts of the pandemic continue to be longer lasting than anticipated and the unprecedented demand for temporary accommodation continued throughout 2022/23.

In line with National pressures SBC have experienced consistent challenges around managing void properties. These include supply-chain delays for materials, service and trade shortages and the impact of increased pressure on utility companies.

SBC have an excellent record in not having to utilise bed & breakfast accommodation, however during the height of the demands on temporary accommodation, bed and breakfast accommodation was used on seven occasions. While SBC have utilised bed & breakfast accommodation within the period due to these have been kept to a minimal level.

Housing Support

The Housing Support Service forms part of the Council’s Homelessness and Financial Support Team and consists of an internal Housing Support team and a commissioned service. Housing Support offers accessible, flexible and personalised support to individuals in critical need to enable them to secure, establish, manage and maintain their home. The team’s objectives are:

- Prevent homelessness through the provision of person centred housing support
- Prepare individuals/households for independent living, and help them maintain their housing independence.
- Assist and support households towards securing suitable, affordable, sustainable permanent accommodation
- Support households regardless of accommodation status i.e. in temporary accommodation, at home and no fixed abode
- Promote the health, wellbeing and social integration of homeless households

Table 7 below shows the number of referrals each year as well as the percentage of cases which have been closed due to successful intervention.

Table 7 – Referrals and % of Cases Closed						
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
No. of referrals received to Housing Support services(inclusive of Commissioned service(s))	476	592	388 ¹	261	265	301
No. of cases open within Housing Support Services(inclusive of Commissioned service(s))	278	296	395	386	415	470
Case closed with positive outcome recorded as a proportion of total number of housing support cases closed by SBC Homelessness housing support service and its commissioned service(s)	73%	74%	80%	85%	83%	79%

The Housing support Team continue to seek feedback from the people who received support. Here are some examples of this feedback over the past six years,

‘At a time in my life which I found extremely challenging it was incredible to find such a wonderful and kind team of people to help get safely through it! I felt truly blessed.’

‘Can’t believe the support I got’

Partner feedback is often sought as well as people receiving housing support. Below are a few comments from partners who were asked what they felt the Housing Support Team were doing well and what was working:

¹ Please note new method is being used. Previous years have included some double counting between services – e.g. 358 received internally and 252 by Commissioned services = 610 (however 218 referral were direct referral to commissioned services from internal service therefore total = 388.

'I feel the service is a vital component of homelessness services and we rely on their hard work and expertise to support vulnerable clients in their resettlement. Without them I have no doubt there would be a massive increase in the failure of tenancies and people would struggle to maintain them.'

'Great communication, partnership working, active problem solving and ability to look for solutions out of the norm'

'Huge amount of knowledge and skill with regards to all tenancy issues. Provide flexibility and compassion for services users and an understanding as to the complexities of working with particularly vulnerable and at times challenging service users.'

'Good joint working - and communication with the Justice Service.'

'It is a great service that is essential for other professionals and service users alike'

'Individualised support provision where tenant's needs are identified.'

Ukrainian Crisis

The crisis in Ukraine continues to exert pressure on the housing sector in the Borders, by increasing the demand for rental accommodation in areas which are experiencing low turnover. Frontline officers continue to provide housing advice, assistance and support to displaced Ukrainian's entering the UK. Since the start of 2022, 15 families who travelled under the Ukraine Family Visa scheme, have been assisted via the statutory homelessness route, to resettle close to existing family members within the Scottish Borders.

Partnership Working

Scottish Borders Council continues to work in partnership with Registered Social Landlords and other providers to ensure a wide range of services are available to ensure that fewer people are affected by homelessness.

Examples of partnership working over the past six years includes:

- The 'Housing Options Protocol for Care Leavers in the Scottish Borders', which was developed and implemented in partnership with the four locally based Registered Social Landlords in 2017/2018
- During 2018/2019 SBC continued to work with RSL partners, Four Square, and the Scottish Prison Service to implement the locally agreed arrangements for SHORE.
- The "flipping" of temporary accommodation into RSL permanent tenancies has been recently piloted and although applied in only a small number of cases so far, it has produced successful results and is a tool that could be developed and utilised further where this outcome would benefit the tenant and reduce disruption on the household.
- The Through Care and After Care Supported Accommodation Project reach its 10 year anniversary in 2019/20.
- In May 2019 Scottish Borders Housing Association implemented a new allocations policy which changed the way in which homeless applicants were allocated permanent housing.
- In October 2020 Eildon Housing Association implemented a new allocations policy changing the way in which homeless applicants were allocated permanent housing. Early indications in regard to this new allocations policy are encouraging both in regards to preventing and resolving homelessness.

- In 2020/21, SBC and Link Housing Association implemented a Section 5 protocol, which seeks to maximise the choice of homes available to homeless applicants and provide better opportunities to meet homeless households' needs.
- From April 1st 2021, Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA) changed their system that they used to let homes. Working together with six other social housing landlords across Scotland to create a new lettings service called These Homes.
- In 2020/21, SBHA introduced changes to their engagement strategy, increasing the use of emails, social media and texts to reach tenants regarding their rent arrears.
- In 2022/23 45% of all SBHA lets went to section 5 homeless applicants and SBHA continues to support the Housing First Programme.

Permanent Housing

Close working relationships with RSL partners continued throughout 2022/2023, to accelerate the allocation of permanent lets to homeless household in order to reduce the pressure on temporary accommodation and reduce increasing the homelessness queue. During 2022/2023, approximately 40% of RSL lets were allocated to homeless households, compared to the 30% in 2021/2022.

BeWell

Berwickshire Housing Association's Financial Inclusion Team assisted their tenants in obtaining £150,421 of backdated benefits in 2020/21, with a further £898,131 of benefits gains over the following year. In addition Berwickshire Housing Association developed a tenancy support service to support tenants who may have additional mental health and wellbeing support needs. The 18 month pilot project, called 'BeWell', was funded by BHA with additional funding from the Lintel trust. The project launched in 2021/22 and was to be delivered in partnership with Penumbra.

BeWell aims to:

- Promote independent living by addressing key factors that risk tenancy sustainment;
- Work in partnership with Penumbra to provide the range of emotional and practical supports that customers of Berwickshire Housing Association need;
- Reduce tenancy breakdown and rent arrears for customers of Berwickshire Housing Association;
- Reduce the number of voids created by tenancy breakdown
- Maximise access to BHA's tenancy support teams including the Financial Inclusion, Customer Accounts and Befriending services;
- Connect people rapidly to community-based personal and social support networks so that they feel safe and secure in their homes.

These Homes

Berwickshire Housing Association have been working together with six other social housing landlords across Scotland to create a new lettings service called These Homes. These Homes will replace the HomeHunt service currently used to advertise, allocate and let BHA homes. The new digital lettings service will look very different to HomeHunt but will still work in a similar way in that a prospective tenant will need to register and apply for the properties they want to be considered for.

Care Leavers

The Housing Options Protocol for Care Leavers in the Scottish Borders, which was developed and implemented in partnership between Scottish Borders Council and the four locally based Registered Social Landlords in 2017/2018, seeks to ensure that the priority accommodation and support needs of care leavers are recognised in order that their needs for suitable housing are met in a planned and sustainable way. Key partners continue to support the 'Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway: Improving Care Leavers Housing Pathways' to ensure that the housing needs of our care leavers are met in a planned co-ordinated way.

Continued application of the protocol across the last 6 years has seen the number of statutory homelessness applications received from care leavers fall by 28% since the introduction of the Protocol.

Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) Standards

The Scottish Borders Council Homeless Service is the interface point for people leaving prison who have no fixed address.

Table 8: No of statutory homeless applications where the last settled address is recorded as Prison				
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/2022	2022/23
28	34	21	23	24

In November 2017 the ‘Sustainable Housing On Release for Everyone’ (SHORE) standards were launched nationally. The new standards are intended to ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are addressed from an early stage, in a consistent way across Scotland, regardless of where they come from, their housing status and how long they have been in prison or young offenders’ institution.

The SHORE standards were launched nationally in November 2017.

Across the 6 year period of the LHS, the Council has continued to work with RSLs, the Scottish Prison Service and other partners to implement the standards locally, including the implementation of a new information sharing protocol in 2019/20 in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service. The protocol has improved information sharing arrangements contributing to the aspirations of SHORE, allowing for earlier intervention both in terms of the prevention and resolution of homelessness.



A multi-agency working group was established in 2021/22, with key actions such as:

- Further development of the information sharing protocol to allow the sharing of information from the Scottish Prison Service with the four local RSL’s to promote homeless prevention activities.
- Developing a shared understanding of homelessness prevention activities when a tenant is incarcerated to ensure a consistent approach and support the no wrong door initiative.
- Explored the potential to launch bail supervision and home leave accommodation pilot which will be jointly managed by Justice and Homelessness Services. Working with local RSLs, 2 properties have been identified in 2022/23 to be used for this purpose.
- In partnership with Waverley Housing, a property was acquired that will provide a bail supervision and home leave accommodation property. The yearlong pilot will operate during 2023/24, and will allow for a full assessment of a person’s housing and support needs in a managed environment.

Crisis and Housing Intervention Funds

One of two proposed Crisis Intervention Funds was launched in 2020/21. A total of £30,000 RRTP funding per annum has been committed to the Crisis Intervention Funds for the duration of the RRTP. The funds will be administered by Scottish Borders Councils with applications accepted from Homelessness and RSL officers.

The Housing Intervention Fund which launched in February 2020, the aim of the fund is to improve the housing options available to applicants who are in need of intervention due to rent arrears and who often face the prospect of being homeless. More often than not, by this stage, there has been a breakdown in communication with their landlords and/or a lack of engagement from the applicant to address the debt.

Prior to making an application, reasonable steps should be taken to address rent arrears by other means. Homelessness Officers work in collaboration with both the applicant and other interested parties to bridge that gap and help the customer remain in their tenancy. The applicant's landlord and the homelessness team are required to work together to ensure reasonable milestones are met by the applicant that aim to address the underlying cause of the arrears. There were 7 applications to the fund in the first year 2020/21, and 13 applications in the second years 2021/22. In 2022/23 there have been 15 applications to the fund. A total of £48,598 has been spent.

The second fund to launch in 2021/2022 was the Homelessness Intervention Fund accessible by front line workers within homelessness services to use in the prevention or resolution of homelessness. This fund has been very well used, including assisting applicants to access identification documents, allowing them to open a bank account enables better budgeting skills, attend community based activities to assist them to integrate into their locality.

Crash Pad

A Crash Pad was established within the temporary homeless accommodation portfolio and became operational in April 2021. The Crash Pad is a self-contained property that can accommodate households on a short term basis (one or two nights), this will allow for improved assessment of need prior to allocation of temporary accommodation and aims to result in suitable temporary accommodation being provided in the first instance.

This will improve the customer's experience of homelessness, make more efficient use of the wider temporary accommodation stock and reduce Scottish Borders Council's risk of breaching the Unsuitable Accommodation Order.

Digital Inclusion

Housing access and housing stability can be greatly improved for those who have consistent access to the range of services that are offered digitally. Homeless applicants are often digitally excluded and assessment processes have been reviewed to help identify homeless or potentially homeless households who require additional support in this area.

As part of RRTP action to improve digital access, a successful application to Connecting Scotland Programme was submitted, with 10 packages being awarded to homeless households and 237 packages to RSL tenants in 2020/21, and in 2021/22 facilitated the provision of 20 iPads, 28 Chromebooks and 51 Wi-Fi devices to 56 households in the Borders.

The RRTP will continue to explore ways of getting homeless households digitally included throughout its lifespan.

Housing Options Toolkit

The Housing Options Training Toolkit was launched in early 2022 with licenses being provided to around 2,700 local authority staff across Scotland. The project to produce the toolkit originated in the Housing Options Hub network as a joint procurement across all 32 local authorities and Glasgow Housing Association, the first of its kind in Scotland.

The Housing Options Toolkit was rolled out to frontline homelessness services in 2022/23.

Peer Mentoring

A short-term peer support pilot was delivered in collaboration with Penumbra and concluded in August 2022. The Peer Support project aimed to provide social, emotional or practical help to those experiencing homelessness. Peers were recruited to work in service and use their experience to help other people who are facing similar challenges, and work towards breaking down barriers and access support networks.

The recruitment process for the project proved challenging with several rounds of unsuccessful recruitment, however, a suitable applicant was appointed and the pilot was delivered for 5 months.

16 people received peer support during the pilot. Self-reported improvements were recorded in the following areas;

- Mental health
- Life skills
- Exercise and activity
- Purpose and direction
- Social networks
- Participation and control
- Self-management
- Hope for the future

Although there are no current plans to mainstream this activity in the format of the pilot, the lessons learned from the project will inform other areas of the RRTP.

Scottish Housing Day



Scottish Housing in 2019 was all about promoting Housing as a Human Right. It was held on the 18th of September 2019. To mark Scottish Housing Day, Scottish Borders Council joined up with RSLs, other Local Authorities and other organisations across Scotland to promote Housing as a Human Right.

Councilor Mark Rowley, SBC's Executive Member for Business and Economic Development at the time said:

“Everyone should have access to a safe, secure and affordable home and Scottish Housing Day brings together the entire housing sector to celebrate the positive impact that good quality housing makes to the lives of people and communities right across Scotland, as well as highlighting the range of housing options that are available”.

Throughout the day information on housing was publicised across the Council's social media platforms to provide information, advice and awareness of all the services the council offers in relation to homelessness, housing and other housing related services. A bake sale was held at Council HQ reception in Newtown St Boswells, raising a total of £315 for Home Basics. Home Basics is a small local charity which helps families on low incomes in the Scottish Borders furnish their homes.



5. Support to Live Independently

Addressing Priority 4: More people are supported to live independently in their own homes

Key Achievements:

- The “Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People Housing, Care and Support 2018-28” identifies a number of developments for older people across Borders that are “no longer fit for purpose”.
- Responding to the Community Equipment and Housing Adaptations: Draft Guidance
- Housing needs and aspirations of young people study was carried out in 2018-2019 and identified a five year action plan
- Wheelchair housing study was carried out in 2019/2020 and identified an annual target of 20 homes with proposed delivery being divided into 15 by Registered Social Landlords with the balance provided by the private sector.
- 61 wheelchair standard homes delivered
- RSLs have spent £2.334m over the period, on 593 adaptations across their stock
- Over the past 6 years, £1.257m has been spent on major adaptations under the Scheme of Assistance
- Care & Repair have project managed 1,967 minor adaptations and repairs, and 403 major adaptations over the six year period of the last LHS. There have been 22,572 visits by a handyperson
- Over the 6 years of the LHS there were a total of 366 households supported with adaptations to their homes through grants.
- Housing Contribution Statement 2018 was developed and linked in with the Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2018-2022
- 69 units of extra care housing have been delivered in the past five years, in Galashiels and Duns.
- Work has started on the former Kelso High School to convert it into 35 additional flats, which are expected to be completed in early 2023

Health and Social Care Integration

Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership launched in April 2015. The partnership is responsible for planning and commissioning integrated services and overseeing their delivery. These services are all adult social care, primary and community health care services and elements of hospital care which will offer the best opportunities for service redesign. The partnership has a key relationship with acute services in relation to unplanned hospital admissions and will continue to work in partnership with Community Planning Partners.

The Housing Strategy Team developed a Housing Contribution Statement in 2016 and then again in 2018, the 2018 Contribution Statement was linked to the Health and Social Care Partnership Strategy Plan 2018-2022.

Work is currently underway in development the next strategic plan. The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Strategic Framework has been developed to improve the outcomes of the local community, by taking an approach based on the needs of communities to prioritise areas where there will be the biggest impacts on the health and wellbeing outcomes of people in the Scottish Borders.

The Strategic Framework covers the period 2023-2028 and sets out how health and social care services are commissioned and provided over the next three years to improve and support the health and wellbeing of the people of the Scottish Borders. Throughout 2022/ 23 there has been a wide range of consultation and engagement between Health and Social Care and Housing, which has resulted in the housing being embedded into the Framework, meaning there is no separate Housing Contribution Statement.

Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People’s Housing, Care and Support 2018-2028

Working with commissioned consultants, along with our strategic partners, the Council have developed an Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People’s Housing, Care and Support 2018-2028, which was launched at an event in Tweed Horizons in June 2018. This recognises that most people want to remain living in the community for as long as possible. Scottish Borders partners agree that suitable housing has a pivotal role to play in helping to meet older peoples’ health and well- being. As well as offering security and independence, housing provides the residential setting within which other elements of care and support services will be delivered. Getting the residential setting right also provides a basis for reforming services, allowing partners to better meet need as demands increase in the future.

The plan sets out how over the next 10 years the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care partners will aspire to deliver:

- 400 extra care houses (including 60 in a new retirement campus)
- 300 new build houses suitable for older people for sale and in the rented sector
- Existing housing, refurbished or remodeled - 300 houses in the social rented sector
- Housing support on site to be offered to 300 more older households across housing sectors
- Over 8,000 adaptations and small repairs to enable people to stay in their own home
- A minimum of an additional 20 specialist dementia spaces to meet the need identified in the emerging Dementia Strategy
- Investment in telecare / telehealth for over 800 households.

A number of key outcomes and an action plan as well as governance arrangements have been agreed. Governance, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan will be led by the Council’s Corporate Management Team, with regular reports on achievement against the action plan and target also being provided to the Integrated Joint Board.

Housing Event – Re-Thinking Older People’s Housing

In June 2018, Housing, Health and Social Care held an event to launch the Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People’s Housing Care and Support; Re-Thinking Older People’s Housing. The event brought together a wide range of expert speakers from across Scotland looking at the pressing issues, the challenges and how we consider the future beyond the horizon.

The key themes of the event included:

- Housing Supply
- Construction/Skills Challenges
- Care and Support – Service Reforms
- Tele Healthcare – Innovation
- Supporting Independent Living

The event was a huge success and stimulated a wide discussion with some of the key stakeholders in the Scottish Borders.



Extra Care Housing

The “Integrated strategic plan for Older People’s Housing Care and Support 2018-28” sets out a number of strategic actions, in particular development of Extra Care Housing in the main towns within the Scottish

Borders. This helps to tackle “not fit for purpose” older people’s housing and supports the delivery of 300 new homes for older people.

Following a needs assessment exercise, the Council agreed a delivery framework to provide new extra care housing developments in Duns, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick, Kelso and Peebles. Delivery of these developments is now being overseen as one work stream of the Integrated Strategic Plan for Older Peoples’ Housing Care and Support arrangements.

Progress has been made in extra care housing over the 6 year period. In February of 2021, Trust Housing completed construction of the Longfield Crescent development at Todlaw in Duns, and worked with the Council to promote the development, the services it provides and allocate tenancies. Additionally, 39 units were completed at Wilkie Gardens in Galashiels by Eildon Housing Association in November 2021, with work on the former Kelso High School underway which is planned to form another 36 flats – estimated to be completed mid-2023.



Wilkie Gardens, Galashiels



ECH Housing at Todlaw, Duns

The Integrated Strategic Plan for Older Peoples Housing Care and Support 2018-28 also identified the issue of ‘not fit for purpose’ older person’s housing. Council staff met with RSLs who had stock that was affected by this issue, and most have developed asset management and investment strategies. It was planned that RSLs would bring forward project proposals to address these issues, through modernisation and/or remodelling. Eildon Housing Association completed a project in Elm Court Hawick in August of 2022, with another at Oakwood Galashiels under construction. Cairn Housing Association also completed a project at Abbotsford Court Galashiels in 2021/22. Berwickshire Housing Association are considering additional potential remodelling opportunities for their development at Gowanlea in Coldstream.

Wheelchair Accessible Housing Study

As part of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) Guidance 2018, local authorities are required to support a greater focus on wheelchair accessible housing, providing a position statement in the SHIP on the following:

- What their current evidence base tells them about the requirement for wheelchair accessible housing, and any plans to develop this work further.
- The approach, if any, they have set in their Local Housing Strategy/ Local Development Plan to wheelchair accessible housing including any target/ quota that the local authority currently has in place.
- The number of affordable wheelchair accessible houses they plan to deliver over the five years as part of their broader plans for specialist provision.

In response the Council’s Housing Strategy Team commissioned consultants to investigate:

- The numbers, profile and views of wheelchair users and other people with substantial mobility issues who are likely to require wheelchair or similar forms of accessible housing.
- The current stock of housing suitable for wheelchair users, particularly in the social housing sector.
- The challenges wheelchair users and their families experience in securing a suitable home and the factors that have contributed to this.
- Current and potential shortfalls in the provision of wheelchair accessible homes with particular emphasis on affordable housing provision.

Following the delivery of the finalised report “A space to live – Wheelchair accessible housing in the Scottish Borders” in January 2020, work has continued to engage stakeholders. The final report identified a wide range of issues and challenges which will need to be addressed at national as well as local levels, by Scottish Borders Council and partners. It is intended that the action plan will now be delivered and integrated with the Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023 actions through the LHS monitoring and reporting processes.

Informed by the above report the Executive Committee agreed to set an annual Wheelchair Accessible Housing target of 20 homes with the proposed delivery being divided into 15 by Registered Social Landlords with the rest of the balance being provided by the private sector. This target is currently reflected in the Scottish Borders Council current Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-2028.

Wheelchair Housing Delivery

Over the period 55 wheelchair accessible homes have been delivered. This is provided in great detail:

- 2019/20 – 5 units have been delivered which meet wheelchair accessible housing standards. Units were delivered by Berwickshire Housing Association at The Glebe in Chirnside as well as at Todlaw Park in Duns. Eildon Housing Association also provided properties at Howdenburn in Jedburgh and the former GP surgery in Town Yetholm.
- 2020/21 – 2 new build homes were completed to wheelchair accessible housing standards. These were delivered by Trust Housing Association at the new Extra Care Housing development at Longfield Crescent in Duns.
- 2021-2022 – 48 wheelchair standard homes were delivered. These were located as follows, 2 houses at Beanburn Phase 1 in Ayton by Berwickshire Housing Association, Eildon Housing Association delivered 7 flats at Huddersfield Street Galashiels and all 39 flats within the Wilkie Gardens Extra Care Housing development in Galashiels.
- 2022-23 – 6 wheelchair accessible homes were built as part of the McQueen Gardens site in Galashiels by Eildon Housing Association

RSLs have demonstrated their support and willingness to increase the supply of wheelchair accessible homes through the Affordable Housing programme, and it is envisaged that RSL funding bids to the Community Renewal Fund may potentially also contribute to boosting delivery of new homes. Therefore it is anticipated that increased numbers of wheelchair accessible homes will be delivered by RSLs in future years. However effort will have to be made to encourage delivery of wheelchair accessible homes from the private house builders.

HNDA Specialist Provision

As part of the development of the third South East Scotland Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3) a sub group has been established to work specifically on the Special Housing Provision section. The third Housing Need and Demand Assessment for the South East Scotland Area received robust and credible status on Thursday 28th July 2022.

Specialist Provision refers to three broad categories of need covering six types of housing or housing-related provision. These support independent living for as long as possible and help to enable people to live well and with dignity.

Category of Housing Need	Type of Housing Provision
Property Needs	1. Accessible and adapted housing 2. Wheelchair housing 3. Non-permanent housing e.g. for students, migrant workers, asylum seekers, refugees
Care and Support Needs	4. Supported provision e.g. care homes, sheltered housing, hostels and refuges 5. Care/ support services for independent living
Locational or Land Needs ²	6. Site provision e.g. sites/ pitches for Gypsy/ Travellers and sites for Travelling Showpeople, city centre locations for student accommodation

The group worked on developing a comprehensive specialist housing section of the HNDA3 that meets all the core outputs:

- Identifies the contribution that Specialist Provision plays in enabling people to live well, with dignity and independently for as long as possible.
- Identifies any gaps/shortfalls in that provision and the future level and type of provision required.
- Considers evidence regarding property needs, care and support needs and locational/land needs.
- Undertakes consultation with all appropriate stakeholders who represent the views of those people who this chapter may impact upon and reports on the finding of such consultation.
- Gives due consideration to the provision of the Equality Act (2010).

Gypsy Travellers Needs Analysis

SBC recently commissioned consultants to carry out engagement work with the Gypsy Traveller community in the Scottish Borders and to identify the housing needs and requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller community across the region. This was part of the early engagement work of this LHS 2023-2028. The purpose of engagement and needs analysis was to provide an evidence base to inform SBCs approach to meeting current accommodation needs for the GT population and projected needs from 2023-2028.

The assessment undertaken by Altair reviewed the following data sources; national and local data, surveys with households residing at Victoria Park and Innerleithen sites, a survey of those attending the St Boswells Fair and one response to an open survey.

A stakeholder workshop was held on 18th August 2022 attended by stakeholders from Scottish Government, COSLA, NHS Borders, Police, SBC (housing, planning, social care, safer communities, estates, homelessness and legal), Fire and Rescue and Education.

In summary the engagement and needs analysis undertaken concludes the following:

- It is clear that the length of seasonal provision is not enough to fully meet the needs and there is a strong message of ensuring that any future provision accommodates travelling needs.
- The inability to offer provision to those occupying unauthorised encampments has been a source of frustration in providing appropriate support to the Gypsy/Traveller community.
- The consideration of a location for a future site should address the need of the Gypsy/Traveller community to access services and amenities and be informed by the locations of unauthorised encampments, which present across the central Borders area.

² At SDP and local authority level Gypsy/Traveller issues are a requirement of SPP given cross border issues here. Locational need may also be for non-permanent accommodation e.g. student accommodation in town centres or near the college/university. Other more innovative or aspirational 'locational need' may be for certain types of Specialist Provision e.g. properties within close proximity to shops and services or in groups (villages) to allow support services to be managed and delivered more effectively. With the health and social care agenda, this may come more to the fore so that in future there will be more planning collaboration over the provision of nursing/care homes, residential homes etc.

- In taking further steps towards site development a thorough and robust engagement process both for the Gypsy/Traveller community and the settled community will be required.
- That in relation to future delivery of services to the Gypsy/Traveller community, adequate training is given to officers and face to face engagement techniques are prioritised.
- Consideration should be given to the different ethnic groups encompassed within Gypsy and Travellers, which is an umbrella term.

This analysis has indicated an estimated unmet need for an additional site provision of 28 pitches. Estimated additional household formation identifies an anticipated future need for 3 additional pitches. This had led to short working group who have been working on a project plan to identify any site provision in the Scottish Borders which led to a “call for sites” in February 2023. Responses to this are due by the 14th April 2023.

Borders Care and Repair



Caring, Committed, Connected, Creative

Scottish Borders Council has a contract with Eildon Housing Association to deliver the Borders Care and Repair Service.

The aim of the service is to enable older people and people with disabilities living in the private sector to have warm, well maintained and safe home. Care & Repair helps to achieve this by:

- Providing help and advice on housing repairs, improvements and adaptations, and to ensure the work is carried out in accordance with The Care & Repair Standards.
- Providing a Home Handyman service to help to support community care groups (prioritising older people and people with disabilities), to continue to live at home through the provision of practical household help and support.

The service is available to:

- Home owners over 60 years of age
- Private tenants over 60 years of age
- Disabled owners or private tenants of any age



Disabled Adaptation Outcomes

A major adaptation involves permanent changes to the structure of a person’s home. These works are subject to mandatory grant provision and are prioritised for financial assistance by Scottish Borders Council. These include:

- Provision of standard amenities which can include an extension to provide any or all of the standard amenities
- Provision of structural adaptations with the exception of extensions, to provide living accommodation

Over the 6 year period of the LHS a total of £1,257,704 was spent on major adaptations throughout the region in the private sector. The COVID pandemic had an impact on the delivery of these services for multiple years, but despite this there were still 403 major adaptations delivered over the period in the private sector. There were also a total of 1,967 small adaptations and repairs carried out with a total spend of £415,707, and 22,572 instances of practical assistance from the handyman service. Over the 6 years of the LHS there were a total of 366 households supported with adaptations to their homes through grants.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Small Adaptations & Repairs	331	421	400	264	199	353
Handyperson	4,154	4,058	4,060	2,643	3,931	3,726
Major Adaptations	85	94	82	41	33	68
Households Awarded Grants	85	79	74	36	31	61

In 2011 there was a significant move to the development of a ‘One Stop Shop’ model for all adaptations in the Borders, which was achieved through an agreement with each of the four larger Registered Social Landlords. This provides a consistent adaptation service to all people in the Borders regardless of tenure. Through the One Stop Shop approach, Care and Repair effectively spend the funding awarded from the Scottish Government national budget, referred to as Stage 3 funding, for each of the RSLs. Table 10 below details the number of major adaptations and spend by each RSL over the 6 year period.

RSL	Number Completed	Spend
Berwickshire Housing Association	99	£435,527
Eildon Housing Association	160	£575,309
Scottish Borders Housing Association	264	£1,082,702
Waverley Housing	70	£240,786
Total	593	£2,334,324

During 2021/22, Borders Care and Repair were awarded £5,000 to supply and install smoke alarms, supporting those on low incomes to meet the new Scottish Government legislation on fire safety and detection. Funding came from the Scottish Government and was distributed by Care and Repair Scotland. Access to funding was for those aged over 60 or any age with a disability who owned their own home, property was council tax band A-C and with a qualifying benefit of either Pension Credit or Employment Support Allowance.

Borders Care and Repair assisted 21 households by the end of March 2022, fitting a total of 78 units. Work was then carried forward into 2022/23, with an additional £10,000 funding.

Personalising Services

Scottish Borders Housing Association’s Strategic Plan has a commitment to personalising services to ensure those at risk can access support. During the COVID pandemic welfare calls were made to 4,500 tenants and regular welfare checks were maintained with those who had requested them. Using Customer insight data SBHA were able to prioritise their response initially to those shielding, elderly or those with a disability. Referrals made into the community assistance hubs and resilience groups where required. SBHA reduced the number of tenants who over £1,000 in arrears. This has been the result of a change in engagement strategy, email, social media and text has been utilized to reach out to tenants. Normally there is a 5% engagement rate from high risk cases as SBHA proceed with enforcement, however this increased to over 90% during the lockdowns.

Connecting Scotland

RSLs throughout the region have taken part in the Connecting Scotland Initiative allowing them to distribute iPads and Chromebooks to tenants through the scheme enabling them to be digitally connected. Team members were trained as digital champions to offer support to Tenants to get online and use devices.

Housing Proactive, OK Each Day

Berwickshire Housing Association launched a new service across Independent Living homes in partnership with Alertacall, called Housing Proactive, Ok Each Day. This service is the first step towards Berwickshire Housing Association reviewing their overall approach to supporting customers to live independently at home within their local communities for longer. It marks the first step in preparations for the Analogue to Digital switchover.

You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

HOUSING STRATEGY, POLICY & DEVELOPMENT

Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE | TD6 0SA




tel: 01896 661392 | email: housingenquiries@scotborders.gov.uk | www.scotborders.gov.uk










Printed in the Scottish Borders. Designed by Scottish Borders Council Graphic Design Section. KG/04/23.




LHS 2017-2022 Monitoring Tool

2022/23 – Year Six



	There are significant issues that require immediate remedial action. WILL IMPACT ON SERVICE DELIVERY
	Issues have been identified that will require remedial action if work is to remain within tolerance. NOT ON SCHEDULE BUT WILL NOT IMPACT SERVICE DELIVERY
	Progressing to plan

LHS Priority 1: The supply of housing meets the needs of our communities


1.1 Increase the supply of affordable housing				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Progress	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Review and update Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) in accordance with Scottish Government Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBC continues to meet with Scottish Government and RSLs on a regular basis. The SHIP Delivery Support Group continue to improve working relationships with the development management team and help unlock a number of projects in the Borders SHIP 2023-2028 was submitted to Scottish Government in October 2022. The SHIP received very positive feedback from the Scot Gov 		SHIP Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023-2028 SHIP Progress Delivery Report
Identify mismatch of supply and demand in social rented housing, including need for re-provisioning, to inform investment priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to meet on a quarterly basis with the four local RSLs (Borders Housing Alliance) A mis-match project brief has been developed and agreed with the RSLs. Work on this will be carried forward into 2023/24 and form part of the LHS 2023-2028 HNDA3 received robust and credible status in July 2022 Working closely with the Learning Disability Service as part of the development of the LHS 2023-2028 Upper Langlee Regeneration - Demolition of 159 homes was completed in December 2022 and Waverley Housing are currently in the process of procuring a contractor for phase 1 of the new development. Young people work has been imbedded into the new LHS 2023-2028 	 	LHS Partnership Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border Housing Alliance Minutes SHIP 2023-2028 Learning Disability Service Strategic Commissioning Plan 2016-19 Space To Live: Wheelchair Accessible Housing in The Scottish Borders SESHoF Minutes Langlee Steering Group minutes Young People's Housing Need Study
Accelerate infrastructure projects to enable affordable housing projects to proceed; engage with infrastructure development agencies and national/regional construction firms to identify housing led growth opportunities (in/around the Border railway corridor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South East Scotland City Regional Deal - The Edinburgh City Region Housing programme includes the Edinburgh Home Demonstrator project which will demonstrate the effectiveness of homes designed and constructed to net zero carbon, using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). Two Borders based RSLs have expressed interest in participating in this project and will be identifying potential sites in 2023/24. No HIF funding bids identified by SBC and RSLs SBC continues to promote the Rural Housing Fund and this will be included in the new website Lowood - A planning application submitted for roads and service infrastructure was submitted in March 2022. The establishment of Board to oversee delivery of housing, supported living and elderly care facilities at Tweedbank. The application was for the construction of road infrastructure, drainage and planting (22/00494/FUL) was approved in April 2023 Self-Build has been included in the LHS 2023-2028. There are plans to develop a self-build register once further guidance comes from SG 		SBC, HFS, Rural Housing, Scottish Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Deal Workstreams Minutes Regional Housing Board Minutes SHIP 2023-2028 Housing Supply Strategy 2018-2028
Build capacity in the construction sector through training and employment initiatives to ensure businesses compete more efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Deal Region - The Edinburgh City Region Housing programme includes the Edinburgh Home Demonstrator project which will demonstrate the effectiveness of homes designed and constructed to net zero carbon, using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). MMC uses technology, new materials and contemporary on-site building techniques to improve efficiency and quality in buildings. Two Borders based RSLs have expressed interest in participating in this project and will be identifying potential sites in 2023/24. Eildon Housing Association has also progressed development partnerships with 4 Developers. These are Cubby Construction Ltd, M&J Ballantyne Ltd, Stewarts & Shields Building Contractor and High Buckholm Ltd. Continue to attend the construction Sector Supply Chain forum 		SBC, Borders College, South East Scotland Housing Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Deal Workstreams Minutes Regional Housing Board Minutes Housing Supply Strategy 2018-2028
Proactively engage with housing land owners and developers to improve communication, share market intelligence, influence value expectation and cultivate development opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Convention of the South of Scotland held a "Housing Summit" in February 2023 SBC officers are engaging with Homes for Scotland on the Housing Land requirements and the draft NPF4. 		SBC, RSL's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SHIP 2022-2027 Housing Supply Strategy 2018-2028
1.2 Increase options for affordable housing				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Based on improved intelligence of the economies of development in the Borders, examine innovative procurement techniques, construction technologies,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of procurement, design and partnership arrangements can be demonstrated through consideration of SHIP 2023/28 and individual projects. 		South East Scotland Housing Forum,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SHIP 2023-28

partnership agreements and funding models to maximise the delivery of housing supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken by the Mackintosh Environmental Architecture Research Unit within the Mackintosh School of Architecture on Eildon's Green Homes Pilot Project 		SHIP Working Group	
Improve understanding of the economics of development in a Borders context including development costs, construction industry capacity and land values through analysis and research across development partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership working is central to the development of the annual SHIP submission. Ongoing work with RSLs, developers and Scottish Government. Discussions and information sharing continue to take place on a regular basis Review any impact of the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBBTX) on the Borders Housing Market will be considered as part of the new LHS 2023-2028 		South East Scotland Housing Forum, SHIP Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SHIP 2023-28 Main Issues Report Housing Supply Strategy 2018-2028
Explore options to make house purchase an attractive option for young economically active people encouraging them to come to or stay in the Scottish Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the housing pages on SBC's website has begun and is currently ongoing. This includes information and advice on housing options, including low cost home ownership and shared equity The Young People's Housing Need Study continues to be monitored and has now been embedded into the new LHS 2023-2028 All the four local RSLs have updated their allocations policies since April 2019. RSLs will review their allocations policies in 2023 		SBC, South East Scotland Housing Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border Housing Alliance Minutes Young People's Housing Need Study Communications Plan
Work in partnership with economic development partners to address gaps in construction industry/skills capacity which create a barrier to housing led economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together with South East Scotland Edinburgh City Region Skills and Innovation work stream. Continuing to develop more links with SOSE staff in addition to those who transferred from SBC. A number of Community Initiatives have been progressing across the programme. Eildon Housing Association have been working in collaboration with its building contractors, the Association has been pushing for local employment and suppliers to be used where possible. Actively promoting technologies that support energy efficient heating and the decarbonisation of heat has allowed SBC to start to develop experience in these technologies. Training remains available within the region for heat pumps and fabric first insulation. 		Skills Development Scotland Business Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border Housing Alliance Minutes Borders Home Energy Forum Minutes Regional Housing Board Minutes


1.3 Review and progress delivery of locality plans

Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Support the development of a town centre living strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawick CARS offered grant funding to 80 High Street (the former Liberal Club) with an intervention rate of 90% in September 2022. The works were due to be completed end of April 2023. This will secure the occupied areas of the building for the future. The main Liberal Club is however still to be developed, which will take the building off the buildings at risk register. Hawick CARS were also able offer grant funding to another priority building – Glenmac Mill, Hawick. This work was due to start in April 2023 and due for completion autumn 2023 to tie in with the flood protection works. Town centre projects are monitored through SHIP While there are have been no new builds in town centres in 2022/23 there have been 12 units developed very close to the town centre boundary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Oakwood, Galashiels 8 Elm Court, Hawick 		CPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre Strategies CARS SHIP 2023-28 Town Centre Contribution Statements
Improve understanding of housing need and aspirations through community engagement and by sharing information across services and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Strategy meet regularly with locality partners. RSL and Housing Strategy Team are represented on the Strategic Planning Group 		CPP, SESplan Housing Market partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Locality Profiles Community Led Steering Group Minutes Strategic Planning Group Minutes

1.4 Reduce the number of empty homes

Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Reduce the number of empty properties by offering information and advice to property owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The long term empty property numbers remain at relatively constant level. Data on Empty Homes provided by council tax is reviewed on a monthly basis. This provides the basis of directing appropriate contact with owners. There has been a level of data cleansing required. This data will continued to be monitored monthly. The Empty Homes Officer works with empty homes owners to agree a package of work and timescales. Following an application to customer services, requesting discretion by the owner, a discretion report based on property visit and agreements made with the owners is provide to customer services by the Empty Homes Officer. In 2022 SBC launched the Empty Homes Grant Scheme which formally came into effect in September of last year. The Grant Scheme has been well received and we currently have 16 applications for a variety of empty homes across the borders, 12 of which will become affordable rental homes. In the first year of dedicated resource being applied to empty homes, we have seen 18 empty homes being brought back into use through direct officer activity. The Empty Homes Officer was nominated for the SEHP Rising Star Award at the Scottish Empty Homes Conference 2023. 		SBC, RSL's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications Plan Housing Supply Strategy 2018-2028 Scheme of Assistance

1.5 Contribute to strategic planning








Strategic actions	2021-2022 Actions	2021/22 Status	Partners	Related documents
Use the land reform and community empowerment agendas to promote and offer opportunities for land assembly through local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with South of Scotland Community Housing as a means of exploring and promoting the delivery of affordable housing via this route. Partnership project with the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership also being considered to deliver capacity and resource in the Borders to support this. 		SBC, RSL's, South East Scotland Housing Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Supply Strategy 2018-2028







Performance Indicators:

Strategic outcome	Relevant Indicators	Baseline (date)	Targets	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
1.1 Increase the supply of affordable housing	Total number of completions	325 per annum (ave: 2011/12 – 2014/15)	348 pa	222	345	321	298	Not available at time of reporting	Not available at time of reporting
	Number of affordable homes completed	87 pa (2011/12 – 2014/15)	128 pa	87 RSL	139 (130 RSL & 9 NHT)	114	94	238	120
	Number of new social rented homes completed	79% of affordable completions in 2014/15 were social rent	85% of affordable housing to be social rent	78%	84% (includes RSL purchase)	84%	89%	76%	85%
	Number of other affordable homes delivered (all subsidised and un-subsidised intermediate tenures and mid-market rented homes)	21% of affordable completions in 2014/15 were not social rent	15% of affordable housing to be 'other' affordable housing	145 (23%)	192 (16%)	141 (16%)	107 (8%)	314 (5%)	146 (15%)
1.2 Increase options for affordable housing	Options identified	None	Complete option identification	Exploring SFT 5k and 40k house model	-	-	-	Borders sites proposed in relation to the Edinburgh Home Demonstrator Project ph. 3 pilot.	-
	Feasibility studies undertaken	None	Complete feasibility studies	Not applicable	-	-	-	-	-
	No. of MMR units	None	Increase provision of MMR	45 (Bridge Homes)	9 (Bridge Homes)	0	0	0	5
1.3 Review and progress delivery of locality plans	No of Locality Plans reviewed and delivered	SOA agreed 2013	Locality Plans in place & increase supply of affordable housing in Town Centres in line with Whole Town Plans e.g. Selkirk, Kelso, Hawick & Galashiels	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.4 Reduce the number of empty homes	No. of long-term empty homes	1,421 (2014 figure)	< 1,421 homes	1,427	1,499	1,543 (1,041 long term + 502 exemptions)	1,260 ¹ (990 long term empty + 270 exemptions)	1,587 (1,249 Long term empty + 338 exemptions)	1,730
	Enforcement orders used – e.g. CPOs	0	>0	0	0	6 (in collaboration with Building Standards)	14 in progress. With official notice due early 21/22	5 defective building notices served in regard to common repair issues where owners could not reach collective decision to progress.	Not available at time of writing
	Homes brought back into use	9 (ave 2011/12 – 2014/15)	> 9 homes	5	-	6	4	Empty Homes Officer in post Aug 2021 – active case load of 110 empty homes	19
1.5 Contribute to strategic planning	Adoption of SESplan2	SESplan	Adopt SESplan2 in 2018, as basis for HSTs, LDP and wider strategic planning	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Delivery of HNDA3	HNDA2	Set in place partnership arrangements to deliver HNDA3 and inform the next LHS	-	-	-	-	Work is underway on HNDA3 – with the aim to submit to SG by March 2022	Robust and Credible status – July 2022
	Engage with Planning Review	HNDA3, SHIP	Mechanisms to streamline and enable new housing supply	-	-	-	-	Continue to respond to consultation on NPF4	Continue to respond to consultation on NPF4

¹ As of March 2021, exemptions are much lower at 270. Further analysis will be carried out in due course to identify the reason for this decrease.

LHS Priority 2: More people live in good quality energy efficient homes

2.1 Social housing stock meets the SHQS				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
SBC and RSL's partner will work together to develop a plan for addressing SHQS failures, exemptions and abeyances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the RSL Asset Management plans RSLs are currently in the process of arranging comprehensive stock condition surveys to be carried out 		SBC, RSLs, developers	SHR Data Borders Housing Alliance Minutes
2.2 Social Housing stock meets EESSH 2020 target				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Work in partnership to improve the quality of the social housing stock: to meet SHQS and EESSH targets, and support improved energy efficiency standards in new build developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borders Home Energy Database is maintained and update by the Energy Efficiency Strategy Officer. New data suites provided as part of LHEES preparation and National Assessment. RSLs have carried out extensive internal review and assessments of their stock. SBC have engaged with local RSLs to understand their projected schedule of works relating to energy efficiency improvements and to establish where there may be synergy with ESS:ABS activity. Potential joint working opportunities identified (e.g. mixed tenure blockers) Continue to attend Govt meetings and liaise with stakeholders to take advantage of appropriate right for initiatives. 		SBC, RSLs, developers Borders Home Energy Database	BHEF Minutes Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy
RSLs to prepare annual reports on their progress on achieving EESSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed surveys on condition will inform EESSH 2 strategy (and LHEES for SBC) comprehensive stock condition surveys carried out. RSL progress on EESSH is reported in Annual reports and the Affordable Warmth strategy annual update report. An overall EESSH compliance of 89.3% for 2022/23. Updated against this standard requested. Very slight reduction due to some EPCs and properties being reassessed. BHA 81.1%, EHA 91.4%, SBHA 92% and WH 92.5 % 		SBC, RSLs, developers	SHR Data Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy
2.3 Significant improvement in fuel efficiency of housing stock				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Explore the potential to support communities to come together to negotiate discounted rates for fuel provision in rural areas or acknowledged areas of deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borders Home Energy Forum continues to meet regularly to promote and develop opportunities and support options to cooperate for funding opportunities. Case studies from EES:ABS and Warm & Well Borders scheme used to both promote schemes and examples of scheme worth when applying for additional funding. Ongoing attendance with colleagues in Highlands and Islands forum. Sharing information and activity re: energy suppliers. Insight into energy price increases and concerns. Continued to meet regularly with HES and share issues, challenges and opportunities. 		SBC, SG, Utility Companies, Developers, East Scotland Home Energy Forum	BHEF Minutes Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy
Incentivise mixed tenure approaches to improve energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBC and RSLs share data to see where EES activity can work in shared blocks or to free up blockers. In part of major planned works SBC were able to apply EES:ABS funding to enable a private property within a social EWI scheme to be installed. Looking at larger opportunities and how to use funding to support private properties alongside social housing. Working with RSLs to ensure that private "blockers" in RSL led schemes could be progressed (e.g. via EES:ABS) so the scheme maximised impact and could treat all properties in scope. 		SBC, SG, RSLs, Developers,	BHEF Minutes Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy
Target resources, information and advice to ensure owner occupiers and private landlords benefit from opportunities for insulation, double glazing, upgraded heating systems etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to respond to Scottish Government consultations SBC's website are currently being updated with a section dedicated to the Cost of Living Crisis Post install survey and questionnaire being used on EES:ABS installations. Changeworks (Managing Agent) to provide report on insight gathered. Annually within the EES:ABS scheme a proportion of the funding and resource is set aside to complete monitoring & evaluation on the effectiveness of the scheme. Recent insight and feedback report provided by Changeworks. Warm & Well Borders scheme continued to support households across the region. The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 were withdrawn as a direct result of the impact Covid-19 had on the sector. It has been proposed that the regulations will be in force from 2025, with a backstop date of 2028 for PRS properties, and for all owner occupied properties by 2033. SBC are closely monitoring the guidance and advice from Govt and as soon as firm details are in place, these will be shared with local private landlords across SBC platforms, comms and awareness sessions. In the financial year 2022/23 SBC were awarded £1.8m in EES:ABS funding. 220 energy efficiency measures supporting over 170 households (forecast). For the 2023/24 programme SBC have been allocated over £1.82m, Online digital support as a result of Covid restrictions has embedded behaviours that can support isolated households such as those in very rural areas or those particularly vulnerable. Regular meetings with HES to understand the interactions and traffic of the able to pay households in relation to energy efficiency enquiries. Ensure understand where enquiries and areas of interest are within region and the volumes HES are experiencing. 		SBC, SG, RSLs, Developers, SAL, Private Landlords, East Scotland Home Energy Forum	Consultation Responses Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy
Ensure effective targeting of energy efficiency measures on those who are experiencing fuel poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Affordable Warmth Strategy has been implemented, work is underway on LHEES which will supersede this strategy Carried out an audit on all fuel poverty activity in the area, working in partnership with RSLs, Changeworks, Home Energy Scotland and through the local Home Energy Forum RSLs continue to provide financial inclusion activity and develop bespoke projects with key partners (such as Changeworks) to delivery targeted home energy advice to tenants 		SBC, RSLs, SG, East Scotland Home Energy Forum, SPAP	BHEF Minutes Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy









	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBHA's Warm and Well Coordinator supported 621 tenants in 2022/23 against a target of 350, and issued 1,171 fuel vouchers worth more than £55,000 to SBHA tenants. They also made 130 fuel debt payments, totalling £159,763. The Borders Housing Network (BHN) plans to expand on this work in 2023/24, thanks to a grant of £84,000 from the Scottish Borders Council Cost of Living Fund – with recruitment of a new advisor to support all RSLs in the BHN currently underway. • Continue to use Home Analytics and Arc GIS mapping to explore areas most at risk of fuel poverty or with other specific challenges to delivering affordable warmth. Strategic targeting and delivery of EES:ABS as fuel poor areas identified. Developed processes ahead of LHEES development. Regular weekly meeting with internal ArcGIS planning colleagues to refine processes and increases skills and processes 			
Develop a local, multi-agency home energy forum to support the development and implementation of the strategic approach to tackling fuel poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borders Home Energy Forum continues to welcome new membership and guest speakers are invited to forum ensures broad range of content. • BHEF continues to meet remotely. • Annual Activity report is produced 		SBC, RSLs, East Scotland Home Energy Forum	BHEF Minutes
Explore the development of a comprehensive local network of delivery options to provide enhanced fuel poverty and energy efficiency advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued focus on longer term aspirations beyond annual EES:ABS delivery. Renewable technology and training in college now core to curriculum. Supporting local awareness and interest in both renewables and energy efficiency fabric first measures. • Housing is represented at the Construction and Supply Chain forum. Borders College have now taken chair responsibilities. • Continue to be involved and participate in the Sustainability Development Group • Independent monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken by the Mackintosh Environmental Architecture Research Unit within the Mackintosh School of Architecture on Eildon's Green Homes Pilot Project • SBC & CABs Warm and Well 2022/23 has been able to engage 398 households, with 198 cases resolved with a positive outcome and secured benefits and savings of £1.36 million for households across the region. 		SBC, RSLs, East Scotland Home Energy Forum	BHEF Minutes Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy
2.4 Improved functioning of the private sector housing portfolio				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Work in partnership to improve condition of empty homes in rural areas and town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty Homes Officer was recruited in August 2021 and works for both Scottish Borders Council and Shelter. • In July 2022, South of Scotland Community Housing recruited a Community-Led Housing Co-Ordinator (Empty homes and Buildings) for the Scottish Borders. 		SBC, SG, RSLs, Developers, CPP	CARS Empty Homes Work
Page 167 Develop effective routes to liaise and collaborate with the private landlord sector to maximise the quality and impact of the private rented sector in Scottish Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to work with LAS to hold forums and training. The next forum will be held in 2023/24 • Work continued to develop robust procedures in relation to prescribed information and the common occurrence relating to invalid applications. Scottish Borders Council also introduced a courtesy reminder to ensure oversights of registration renewal aren't unduly affected by late fees applied by SG. • PI's and quarterly report on landlord registration is produced and circulated • RRTP Private Sector Officer has been recruited • Scrutinising prescribed information provided on applications and liaising with landlords where there are anomalies. This is an important point of engagement, landlords are offered guidance on legislation relating to letting properties. Rental properties are being improved as a result and landlords also gain a better understanding of the requirements when letting in the private sector. Prescribed information also includes for the provision of Energy Performance Certificates. Landlords are becoming increasingly aware of the need for energy efficiency and proposed future energy standards affecting the rental market. Advice and support is offered through our liaison service. • Private landlord's survey was sent out at the end of 2022. There was a response rate of 6%. The results will be included in the new LHS 2023-2028 • Feasibility of a project to match suitable private landlords with tenants will be carried forward as an action in the LHS 2023-2028 		SBC, RSLs, Private Landlords, SAL, BHSP Communication Plan	PRS Quarterly Reports
Deliver multi-tenure information and advice to enable households to manage the condition of their property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of house condition across the Borders has been included in the LHS 2023-2028 and has a specific strategic outcome. • Within our team Private Sector initiatives are approached more holistically and appropriately linked. Referral and liaison with other departments has improved although scope for further enhancement remains. • Website content has been reviewed with a draft content progressed – this includes private sector Housing pages which further aligns the service provision in these areas. • Looking at recruiting a Housing Regeneration Officer • The Scheme of Assistance will be reviewed as part of the new LHS 2023-2028 		SBC, RSLs, Shelter, CAB	Scheme of Assistance
Explore and implement mixed tenure solutions to improve stock condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the delivery of the missing shares scheme was hampered by Covid-19, in light of this the scheme has been extended until the 31st March 2025 to mirror the duration of the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme. 			Missing Shares Pilot



Performance Indicators:

Strategic outcome	Relevant Indicators	Baseline (date)	Targets	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	
2.1 Social housing stock meets the SHQS	% of dwellings that meet the SHQS	91% compliance (2014/15)	100%	94%	94%	95%	98%	-	Not available at time of reporting	
	% of dwellings with failures, abeyances or exemptions	9% (2014/15)	0%	6%	6%	5%	2%	-	Not available at time of reporting	
2.2 Social Housing stock meets EESSH 2020 target	% of dwellings that meet the EESSH 2020 target	Baseline to be established as a key priority.	100% compliance	68%	80%	91%	92%	91.2%	89.3%	
2.3 Significant improvement in fuel efficiency of housing stock	Production of a 2017 Fuel Poverty Delivery Strategy	N/A	Complete	-	Draft Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Strategy is currently out for consultation	Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Strategy was approved by council. 1 st year of implementation	2 nd year of the strategy has been implemented	3 rd year of the strategy has been implemented	Work has begun on LHEES	
	Households in fuel poverty	40% fuel poor and 11% extreme fuel poor (2011-2013)	Reduce households in fuel poverty	2014-2016 – 34% fuel poor and 13% extreme fuel poor	2015-2017 – 31% fuel poor and 8% extreme fuel poor	2016-2018 – 29% fuel poor and 15% extreme fuel poor	2017-2019 – 29% fuel poor and 14% extreme fuel poor	Not available at time of reporting – most recent available: 2017-2019 – 29% fuel poor and 14% extreme fuel poor	Most recent available: 2017-2019 – 29% fuel poor and 14% extreme fuel poor	
	EES-ABS investment in Scottish Borders	£1,623,023 (2014/15)	Full EES:ABS spend	£1,409,119	award is almost £1.3m	£1.4m	£1.7m	£1.78m	£1.8m	
	Social rented sector stock built to Silver energy standard	N/A	100%	87	130	114	103	-	-	
	No. of private sector measures installed	420 (370 External wall insulation, 50 cavity wall insulation) (2014/15)	>420	Over 700 (600 Hard to Treat cavities, 37 External wall insulation, 35 internal wall insulation)	732 private measures and 3 social measures (10 virgin loft, 39 loft top-up, 32 room in roof, 50 CWI, 8 underfloor, 44 IWI, 26 EWI, 526 HTTCs)	278 private measures installed (126 HTTC, 65 EWI, 56 IWI & 25 Air Source Heat Pumps)	Following Covid restrictions it was still possible to install 100 of the planned 278 energy efficiency measures supporting over 75 hsehlds	141 measures installed supporting 83 households	More complicated multi measures including renewable technologies.	220 (tbc)
	No. of households provided with energy advice/information	4,041 Engagements; 895 referrals (Home Energy Scotland) (2014/15)	>4,041	5,124 Engagements 2,034 referrals	5,411 engagements 847 referrals	5,117 engagements 724 referrals	5,501 Engagements 183 Referrals	6,391 engagements 173 referrals	Not available at time of writing	
2.4 Improved functioning of the private sector housing portfolio	Finalise private sector strategy, including provision for BTS strategy	N/A	Complete	-	-	-	-	Included in the development of LHS 2023-2028	Included in the development of LHS 2023-2028	
	No. of private sector properties where serious disrepair and BTS reduced	TBC	80 units per annum	18 supported with Advice and practical Assistance. 11 resulting in action	25 supported with Advice and practical assistance	40 instances of practical assistance.	46 instances of advice and practical assistance	38 instances of advice and practical assistance	48 instances of advice and practical assistance	
	Enforcement orders used	0	>0	0	0	6 (in collaboration with Building Standards)	14 in progress. With official notice due early 21/22	5 defective building notices served in regard to common repair issues where owners could not reach collective decision to progress.	Not available at time of writing	

LHS Priority 3: Fewer People are affected by homelessness

Outcomes:

3.1 Use effective housing options and preventative intervention to successfully prevent homelessness				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Develop and analyse client group profiles for homeless applicants to identify reasons for homelessness, housing support needs and how to target prevention activity to specific groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension to current Housing Support Contract has been granted until July 2023 to allow for revision of the tender and re-tender of our contract in line with mapping current Housing support networks. 		BHHSP, Housing Support providers, Information & advice agencies	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)
Monitor the strategic homelessness approach through the newly established Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership, and delivery of the new Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities and spend template submitted to SG 30/06/2020. A review on the RRTP is currently ongoing 		BHHSP, SG, private landlords, Housing Support providers, Information & advice agencies	
3.2 Improve access to & impact of Housing Options model				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Conduct research and analysis of the reasons behind sustainment outcomes for previously homeless households to ensure that effective support models are identified and are made more widely available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work continues on better understanding of housing allocation lets to homeless and potentially homeless households to identify current pressures and blockages. Two pilot intervention Funds available in 2021/2022, funded by Scottish Government Ending Homelessness Together fund. The first was launched in 2020/21, there were 7 applications to the fund in the first year 2020/21, and 13 applications in the second years 2021/22. In 2022/23 there have been 15 applications to the fund. A total of £48,598 has been spent. The second fund to launch in 2021/2022 was the Homelessness Intervention Fund accessible by front line workers within homelessness services to use in the prevention or resolution of homelessness and has been very well used. 		BHHSP, Housing Support providers, Information & advice agencies	RRTP
Improve access and links to education, training or employment opportunities within homelessness and resettlement processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due historically unprecedented demand on homelessness service, the continued impact of the pandemic and impact from the Ukrainian programme the SBC RRTP is currently being reviewed and this will be reviewed as part of that 		BHHSP, Employability services, Housing Support providers	RRTP
Page 18 Implement a common approach to housing options which stimulates collaboration, considers all tenures, focuses on prevention and early action and creates a single point of access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due historically unprecedented demand on homelessness service, the continued impact of the pandemic and impact from the Ukrainian programme the SBC RRTP is currently being reviewed and this will be reviewed as part of that National reviews ongoing in these areas and work stream/guidance being fed down from SG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Care Leavers – Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway: Improving Care Leaver Housing pathway – published in November 2019 by a Way home Scotland ** Domestic Abuse – Improving housing Outcomes for women and children experiencing domestic abuse, published December 2020 ***Poverty is a thread that will run through all pathways however this action will seek to ensure that no gaps remain following the completion of the individual pathways work. 		BHHSP, BWA, private landlords, Housing Support providers, Info & advice agencies, IJB, H&SCP,	RRTP
Develop a range of Housing Options pathways tailored to the needs of specific client groups and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due historically unprecedented demand on homelessness service, the continued impact of the pandemic and impact from the Ukrainian programme the SBC RRTP is currently being reviewed Currently working update SBC website with a section on 'finding a home' this will include a wide range of information on housing options 		BHHSP, BWA, private landlords, Housing Support providers, Info & advice agencies, IJB, H&SCP	RRTP
3.3 Improve access to a range of settled accommodation options				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Improve access to a better range of settled accommodation options for homeless households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of a RRTP Private Sector Officer Private landlords survey at the end of 2022 – a response rate of 6% Create awareness of and make appropriate use of First-tier Tribunal referral powers, monitoring cases considered by the First-tier tribunal will be a key responsibility of the RRTP Private Sector officer when appointed. Homeless, DA, TCAC, Housing support officer have completed bespoke training. National working Group looking at PHP, SBC are part of the national group. Draft guidance and templates expected to be finalised for consideration by the Government the end of March 2021. Consider localised implementation following publication of guidance. Formalised relationships with Link Housing who have joined the section 5 protocol and offering SBC first refusal on 100% of their lets in the Scottish Borders 		SG, DWP, BHHSP, BWA, private landlords, Housing Support providers, Info & advice agencies	RRTP
3.4 Lessen the impact of residing in temporary accommodation				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Review the strategy for temporary accommodation to ensure financial sustainability and to continuously improve customer outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Crash Pad was established within the temporary homeless accommodation portfolio and will become operational in April 2021. As part of the national public health response homelessness services increased the number of temporary accommodation units in partnership with the RSLs. The change in course was due to the global pandemic. 		SG, DWP, BWA, BHHSP, private landlords, Housing Support	RRTP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national finance framework for temporary accommodation has been delayed and is not expected to complete until 2022/2023 at the earliest. 		providers, Info & advice agencies	
Explore ways to expand the range of transitional accommodation options for homeless households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need for temporary accommodation continues to be in high demand, this case nationally as well. 		SG, BHHSP, private landlords, Housing Support providers, Information & advice agencies	RRTP
3.5 Promote independent living & tenancy sustainment through effective delivery of housing support duty				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Improve access to health and social care services for homeless people, particularly for those with complex needs by working with integration partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing First - To the 31st of March 2023, 10 Housing First tenancies had commenced, making a significant contribution to helping to keep vulnerable people safe. Cyrenians will complete a formal evaluation of the pilot project in 2023 		BHHSP, IJB, H&SCP	RRTP











Performance Indicators:

Strategic outcome	Relevant Indicators	Baseline (date)	Targets	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
3.1 Use effective housing options and preventative intervention to successfully prevent homelessness	No. of Housing Options cases assisted to a. maintain existing accommodation b. access settled housing	(a) 10% remained in existing accommodation: 2014/15 (b) 26% accessed settled accommodation – 17% social/9% PRS: 2014/15	a. 2% increase per annum b. 2% increase per annum per annum	(a) 60 (b) 89	(a) 45 (b) 21	(a) 64 (b) 35	(a) 56 (b) 22	(a) 43 (b) 29	(a) 25 (b) 13
	Number & % assessed as homeless	535 (83% of all applications): 2014/15	Not applicable	590 (84% of applications)	629 (82%)	645 (82%)	558 (84%)	578 (84%)	86%
	% applicants reassessed as homeless in same year	44 (4.5% of all applications): 2014/15	1% reduction per annum	30 (4.5%) 650	29 (3.8%)	36 (4.6%)	33 (4.9%)	17 (2.5%)	3%
	% young people presenting as homeless	210 (34% applications): 2014/15	5% reduction per annum	171 (24% applications)	197 (26% applications)	205 (27% applications)	198 (29% applications)	149 (23% applications)	21%
3.2 Improve access to & impact of Housing Options model	Number accessing Housing Options service	636: 2014/15	5% increase per annum	403	268	288	179	774	835
	Number partners delivering Housing Options model	1 (Homelessness Team) 2014/15	5 partners offering full Housing Options service	For consideration in 2018/19 by Borders Homelessness & Health Strategic Partnership	Agreement of Scottish Borders RRTP 2019/20-2023/24 including actions 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18.	Agreement of Scottish Borders RRTP 2019/20-2023/24 including actions 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18.	Agreement of Scottish Borders RRTP 2019/20-2023/24 – Target date 31/03/2023	Agreement of Scottish Borders RRTP 2019/20-2023/24 – Target date 31/03/2023	RRTP action plan is currently being revised
	% housing options cases that progress to homeless application	37%: 2014/15	Not applicable	62%	65%	49%	48%	46%	Not available at time of writing
3.3 Improve access to a range of settled accommodation options	% homeless cases closed in period accessing settled accommodation as outcome a. Social housing b. Private housing	(a) 55% accessed social housing: 2014/15 (b) 3% accessed assured PRS tenancy: 2014/15	a. 1% increase per annum b. 2% increase per annum	(a) 57% (b) 6%	(a) 58% (b) 7%	(a) 59% (b) 6%	(a) 59% (b) 8%	(a) 64% (b) 7%	(a) 62% (b) 6%
	% unintentionally homeless household access settled accommodation	59% (2014/15)	90%	62%	78%	80%	89%	94%	93%
	Number of homeless people housed through rent deposit scheme	84 (2014/15)	10% increase per annum	21	-	10	3	0	Not available at time of writing
	% RSL lets to homeless households	23% (2014/15)	50%	22%	28%	30%	33%	30%	Not available at time of writing
3.4 Lessen the impact of residing in temporary accommodation	Number of self-contained temporary accommodation spaces	104 spaces: 2014/15	104 spaces	107	104	106	119	129	150
	Number of supported accommodation spaces	8 spaces (5 x refuge, 4 x looked after children): 2014/15	13 spaces	8 spaces (4 x refuge, 4 x looked after children)	8 spaces (4 x refuge, 4 x looked after children)	8 spaces (4 x refuge, 4 x looked after children)	In order to provide Covid safe accom, refuge spaces reduced to	Refuge – 2 women and their children	Refuge – 2 women and their children

							- 2 women with their children.		
	% accessing temporary accommodation (i.e. not emergency placements)	94%: 2014/15	100%	99%	98%	No longer recorded through SHR	No longer recorded through SHR	No longer recorded through SHR	No longer recorded through SHR
	No. of households who occupied temporary accommodation - B&B accommodation	7%: 2014/15	0	2	6	8	0	0	7
	Average length of stay in temporary accommodation	100 days: 2014/15	10% reduction in length of stay per annum	137	151	135	136	163	169
	% satisfaction of temporary or emergency accommodation	83% very and fairly satisfied (2015/16)	90% satisfaction rate	90%	90%	-	-	-	-
	% of offers of temporary or emergency accommodation refused	15%: 2015/16	Reduce refusals by 5%	14%	3%	5%	11%	9%	-
3.5 Promote independent living & tenancy sustainment through effective delivery of housing support duty	Number of referrals received to Housing Support services(inclusive of Commissioned service(s))	425 cases: 2014/15	Not applicable	476	592	388 (new methodology, see footnote) ²	261	265	301
	Number of cases open within Housing Support Services(inclusive of Commissioned service(s))	237 cases: 2014/15	Not applicable	278	296	395	389	415	470
	Case closed with positive outcome recorded as a proportion of total number of housing support cases closed by SBC Homelessness housing support service and its commissioned service(s)	67% 2014/15	3% increase per annum	Collective 73% of total cases closed (291 cases)	74%	Total closed cases 255, 204 identified with a positive outcome = 80%	85%	83%	79%

² Please note new method is being used. Previous years have included some double counting between services – e.g. 358 received internally and 252 by Commissioned services = 610 (however 218 referral were direct referral to commissioned services from internal service therefore total = 388).

LHS Priority 4: More people are supported to live independently in their own homes

4.1 More people being able to live independently in their own homes				
Strategic actions	2021-2022 Actions	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Liaise with RSL partners to consider a range of new, and existing provision that could be adapted to suit changing needs and service configuration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings from the Wheelchair Housing Study have been included in the SHIP 2023-28. The SHIP identifies proposed projects which includes particular needs housing provision. 		SBC, RSLs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space To Live: Wheelchair Accessible Housing in The Scottish Borders SHIP 2023-28
Investigate the feasibility of developing shared ownership and equity release schemes for older people to finance property adaptations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring the SFT Home Scheme (5k and the 40k home) The Scheme of Assistance will be getting reviewed as part of the new LHS 2023-28 		SBC, SG, RSLs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border Housing Alliance Minutes
Explore the future potential of the Borders Care & Repair scheme to further provide a wider range of services which will enable people to live independently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to help support and deliver the Older Peoples Strategy 		SBC, Eildon, SWD, SBC Housing Strategy, Care and Repair Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People's Housing, Care and Support 2018-2028 Scheme of Assistance
Make better use of digital infrastructure and telephony to enable individuals to live independently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HST have been involved in the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan for Health and Social Care 		IJB, RSLs, SBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People's Housing, Care and Support 2018-2028
4.2 Increased provision of specialised housing				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Progress	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Implement an Older People's Housing Strategy in partnership with the Health and Social Care Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra Care Housing Board continues to operate to oversee the delivery of the ECH programme Developing a wide range of PIs to update the current Performance Monitoring for Housing 		IJB, SWD, RSLs Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People's Housing, Care and Support 2018-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRTP
Assess the extent and nature of needs within the gypsies and traveller community; and develop appropriate response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Gypsy Traveller Needs Assessment and Engagement Study was carried out in 2022 as part of the engagement of the new LHS 2023-28. Recommendations from the report have identified a need for a GT site in the Borders and a call for sites was carried out in February 2023. 		SESHoF, SBC, G&T community SBC Gypsy/ Traveller Meeting minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRTP HNDA Project Team minutes
4.3 Effective housing input to process of health and social care integration				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Progress	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Include housing within integration and locality planning processes to make sure that housing provision for a range of client groups is in the right place with sufficient connectivity to transport and digital infrastructure developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan has been developed throughout 2022/23 and housing contributed to the JSNA and Draft Plan Annual Affordable Housing including ECH, Amenity and wheelchair accessible housing delivery reported to Executive Committee. SBC and RSL representation attend the Strategic Planning Group 		IJB, RSLs, Third sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Framework 2023 Locality Working Group minutes Housing Contribution Statement 2018
Enable a collaborative approach to a mapping exercise with the integration joint board to establish the availability of local advice and support services as part of the locality planning process (rural exclusion analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HST continues to contribute to area partnerships and locality plans 		SBC, IJB, RSLs, Third sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locality Plans Community Led Support Group Minutes
4.4 Improved availability of housing support services				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Progress	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Monitor availability and impact of housing support for young people and other vulnerable client groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Young People's Housing Needs Study and action plan have been embedded in the new LHS 2023-28. Taking forward the actions and key themes from the engagement Review is currently been undertaken on the RRTP Housing Strategy continue to be involved in Physical Disability Strategy Reference Group, the Strategic Planning Group and the Learning Disability Group 		SBC, RSLs, BHHSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRTP The Housings Needs and Aspirations of Young People; Scottish Borders 5 Year Action Plan April 2019
4.5 Increase in prevention and early intervention				
Strategic actions	2022-2023 Progress	2022/23 Status	Partners	Related documents
Ensure RSLs work in partnership with care and support providers to improve intelligence of need across a range of client groups plus developments in technology and design innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work support the delivery to housing for older people through extra care housing and care village Housing Strategy continue to be involved in Physical Disability Strategy Reference Group, the Strategic Planning Group and the Learning Disability Group The findings of the Wheelchair Study have been included in the SHIP and are being used to support the development of the specialist housing section of HNDA3 		SBC, RSLs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Strategic Plan for Older People's Housing, Care and Support 2018-2028 Physical Disability Strategy Strategic Plan

Provide information and advice to a range of client groups on the options available to them as their housing and care needs change, encouraging and supporting pre-planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RRTP is currently being updated, including the action plan RSLs continue to review, monitor and update their allocation policies on a regular basis SBC Housing and Homelessness webpages have been through a review and are currently being updated 	G	SBC, RSLs Third sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RRTP Communication Plan
--	--	----------	------------------------	--

Performance Indicators:

Strategic outcome	Relevant Indicators	Baseline (date)	Targets	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
4.1 More people being able to live independently in their own homes	Number of persons receiving aids/adaptations and handyman services	Minor adaptations – 355 Minor repairs – 20 Handyperson – 4495 Major adaptations – 75	Minor adaptations – > 355 Minor repairs - > 20 Handyperson – > 4495 Major adaptations – > 88 Targets to be agreed annually with Care and Repair service.	Minor adaptations & repairs – 155 Handyperson – 4,154 Major adaptations – 85	Small repairs & adaptations - 421 Handyperson – 4,058 Major adaptations – 94 RSL adaptations – 128	Small repairs & adaptations – 400 Handyperson – 4,060 Major adaptations – 116	Small repairs & adaptations – 264 Handyperson – 2,643 Major Adaptations – 41	Minor adaptations & repairs -199 Handyperson - 3,931 Major adaptations - 33	Minor adaptations & repairs -353 Handyperson - 3,726 Major adaptations - 68
4.2 Increased provision of specialised housing	Number of specialist housing places	ECH/HwC places = 129 (Dec 2014)	ECH/HwC = 180	14	4	5	52	51	10
	Number of new homes to wheelchair and varying needs standard	ECH/HwC places = 129 (Dec 2014)	ECH/HwC = 180	4	4	5	2	48	6
4.3 Effective housing input to process of health and social care integration	Recognition of HCS by HSCP	N/A	Housing involved in service redesign plans.	Housing Contribution Statement 2016 in place	Housing Contribution Statement 2018 in place	Housing Contribution Statement 2018 in place	Housing Contribution Statement 2018 in place	Housing Contribution Statement 2018 in place	Housing Contribution to the new Strategic Framework in 2022/23
	Housing represented at strategic planning level	N/A	Housing involved in service redesign plans.	Housing represented	Housing represented	Housing represented	Housing represented	Housing represented	Housing represented
	Housing representation on locality planning groups	N/A	Housing involved in service redesign plans.	Housing represented	Housing represented	Housing represented	Housing represented	Housing represented	Housing represented
4.4 Improved availability of housing support services	Outsourcing of housing support	N/A	Evaluation of benefits in outsourcing housing support	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No of people receiving housing support	N/A	Increase in number receiving support	476	592	388 ³	261	265	301
	Greater transparency and assessment of sufficiency of Housing support services	N/A	Assessment of impact of changes in support of objective	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.5 Increase in prevention and early intervention	Maximise use of Care and Repair budget	Social Rented Sector = £322k Private Sector = £375k (2016/17)	Monitor and evaluate procedures, value for money and impact of adaptations and equipment provision. Maintain existing level of budget provision.	Social Rented £423k Private Sector £442k	Social Rented Sector = £452k Private Sector = £406k	Social Rented £409k Private £439k	Social Rented £139,634 Private Sector £187k	Social Rented £345,837 Private Sector £129,273.37	Social rented: £580,045 Private sector: £487,637
	Increased use of technology to support individuals	No. receiving community alarm or telecare: Aged 18-64 = 239 Aged 65+ = 1,690	Introduction of new technologies. Evaluation report on outcomes.	18 – 64: 219, 65+: 1,445	18 – 64: 239, 65+: 1,637	18 – 64: 290, 65+: 2,564	18 – 64: 125, 65+: 829	18-64: 141, 65+: 1,103	Not available at time of reporting
	Evaluation of housing options advice and general advice/information services	n/a	Evaluation report on outcomes	Initially considered as part of Homelessness restructure on	Taken forward as part RRTP	Part of RRTP action Plan	Part of RRTP action Plan	Part of RRTP action Plan	Part of RRTP action Plan

³ Please note new method is being used. Previous years have included some double counting between services – e.g. 358 received internally and 252 by Commissioned services = 610 (however 218 referral were direct referral to commissioned services from internal service therefore total = 388)

This page is intentionally left blank



STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN PROGRESS FOR 2022/23

Report by Director – Infrastructure and Environment

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the affordable housing annual completions and progress made in the delivery of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan projects for the period 2022/23 and report on progress related to empty homes.**
- 1.2 The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is the sole document for targeting affordable housing investment in Scottish Borders. It is prepared and submitted to Scottish Government on an annual basis, providing a rolling 5 year planning horizon of identified and prioritised affordable housing development intentions. Scottish Borders Council's SHIP 2023-2028 received positive feedback from Scottish Government Officials.
- 1.3 This report advises Members that for the financial period 2022-2023, 146 affordable homes were delivered. This exceeds the Council's Local Housing Strategy annual target of 128 new affordable homes. Of the 146 homes delivered, Registered Social Landlords delivered 120 additional homes through new building and conversion and an additional 13 via purchases of existing homes. Five homes were delivered through the Rural Housing Grant and 8 individual house purchases were assisted by Scottish Government's Open Market Shared Ownership scheme. This represents a 6 year average annual delivery of 174 affordable homes; 131 of which are 'new' supply.
- 1.4 The report also provides some contextual commentary on empty homes activity and progress in 2022/23, including 36 homes brought back in to use.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee:

- (a) Endorse the progress made in the delivery of affordable housing in 2022/23; and**
- (b) Notes the progress made in addressing Empty Homes.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Local Authorities are required to produce and submit a rolling five-year Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) to the Scottish Government, on an annual basis. The SHIP's core purpose is to set out the key strategic housing investment priorities over a five-year period and is consistent with the identified priorities set out in the Council's LHS. [The SHIP 2023-2028](#) is an ambitious, creative and practical plan that rolls forward projects identified in previous SHIPs and introduces new projects. It demonstrates how, when and where the Council and its partners intend to develop new homes. It also illustrates how a variety of funding mechanisms are maximised to ensure the delivery of the projects.
- 3.2 The SHIP 2023-28 sets out how affordable housing projects are prioritised to meet affordable housing needs identified in the Local Housing Strategy and how new planned projects will be delivered in practice. Delivery of the SHIP is dependent upon RSLs continuing to secure ownership of sites and maintaining a land-bank to provide more certainty to programme delivery. The SHIP was formally agreed by the [Executive Committee on 4 October 2022](#) and subsequently submitted to Scottish Ministers prior to the required 31 October 2022 deadline.
- 3.3 Scottish Government Officials have confirmed that, due to the national focus on increasing the supply of affordable housing, SHIP submissions will continue to be required on an annual basis. Work has already started on the next SHIP 2024-2029 due by 31 October 2023. A report will be brought to Committee in prior to submission to Scottish Government.
- 3.4 The Council's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is a statutory requirement that provides the strategic direction to tackle housing need and demand and informs future investment in housing and related services across Scottish Borders Council's area. The new, proposed, consultative draft LHS has been prepared in accordance with Scottish Government Guidance which sets out the statutory requirements, essential links and outcomes that should be considered within the strategy. The consultative draft LHS 2023-2028 was [considered by committee in April 2023](#). A key Strategic Outcome is the delivery of more homes in well designed, sustainable communities that increase opportunity for all. Delivery of this strategic outcome includes addressing, and utilising empty homes, as well as the new build affordable housing programme.

4 STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

- 4.1 The [SHIP 2023-2028](#) [Table 4] estimated 165 affordable housing completions for the period April 2022 – March 2023. At 31st March 2023 a total of 146 affordable homes were completed during 2022/23 as set out in Table 1 at paragraph 4.2. Of the 146 homes delivered, Registered Social Landlords have delivered 120 through new build and remodelling and an additional 13 through individual house purchases. A further 8 individual home purchases have been assisted via the Scottish Government's Open Market Shared Ownership mechanism and 5 mid-market rent homes were delivered through the Rural Housing Grant at Kirkhope Farm Steading.

4.2 This represents a Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022, plus 2023 (6 year) average annual affordable housing delivery of 174 (131 of which are 'new' supply) homes which exceeds the annual target of 128 homes. The level of completions in 2022/23 was however lower than expected and less than in 2021/22. This was anticipated due to the knock on effects of delays resulting from Covid and other challenges. Projects at Glensax Road, Peebles (6 homes) and Tweed Court, Kelso (12 homes) did not complete in 2022/23 as originally planned. The housing providers and their agents are managing the slippage within the terms and conditions of the individual building contracts in order to achieve completions and handovers as soon as possible in 2023/24. Council Officers are monitoring the situation.

Table 1: Project Completions 2022/23

RSL	Project Name	Supplier	Units GN	Units PN	Units Total	Status Update as at 31/03/23
BHA	Springfield Ph2, Duns	HA Rent	28	-	28	Complete
EHA	Coopersknowe Ph1, Galashiels	HA Rent	63	6	69	Complete
EHA	Elm Court, Hawick	HA Rent	8	-	8	Complete
EHA	Oakwood, Galashiels	HA Rent	0	4	4	Complete
EHA	High Buckholm Ph1, Galashiels	HA Rent	11	-	11	Complete
SBHA	Individual House Purchase	MMR	5	-	5	Complete
SBHA	Individual House Purchase	HA Rent	8	-	8	Complete
OMSE	Open Market Shared Equity	HA Rent	8	-	8	Complete
RHG	Kirkhope Farm Steading, Ettrickbridge	MMR	5	-	5	Complete
Total			136	10	146	

4.3 Figure 1 below illustrates some developments which completed during 2022/23.

Figure 1: Completed Developments in 2022/23



4.4 The pandemic continues to impact on the development and construction of affordable housing across Scotland. In addition to this the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis has had a major impact in the delivery of current projects and delays in projects being brought forward for approval. Construction industry capacity, construction materials availability and costs, availability of grant funding and borrowing capacity of RSLs is all impacting on the delivery of the programme.

- 4.5 The housing market context in which we seek to deliver affordable housing is set out in the [draft LHS 2023-2028](#). As highlighted at 4.4 the impact of the war in Ukraine, as well as the long-term impact of the pandemic has seen costs in the construction sector [increase exponentially](#). While material cost increases have been significant, there are predictions this may slow and stabilise over 2023/24, however they are unlikely to reduce and labour will replace materials as the main cost driver in the near term, given skills and staff shortages which are likely to push up wages.
- 4.6 The amount of grant funding benchmark made available for each affordable home increased in 2021 and is likely to again in 2023, however the increases in construction costs has meant that this has had a limited impact on viability. Scottish Borders Council, and its development partners, have been successful in securing an enhanced level of contribution from Scottish Government however.
- 4.7 RSLs are also under increased financial pressure which may impact on new development. The cost-of-living crisis and inflationary rises have meant the day-to-day delivery of RSL services are costing more. Wider statutory investment commitments also mean that landlords are having to prioritise investment to bring existing homes up to meet Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing 2 (EESH2), for example. In addition to this, keeping rents low and affordable means that borrowing levels can be affected, which impacts on RSLs ability to finance new build programmes and puts increasing pressure on available grant funding.
- 4.8 At 31 March 2023, 148 affordable homes were under construction (6 projects). Other projects have secured Planning Consent or are at Planning Application stage. Current programming information suggests that 112 new affordable homes could be approved for site start in the Borders this financial year (2023/24) and based on current delivery programmes, an additional 145 affordable homes could potentially be completed. Approvals for 2022/23 year were however below the original target as RSLs considered delaying procuring new contracts due to cost inflation or due to recent tender returns being unviable. Recent tender returns for some proposed Affordable Housing developments in the Borders have been £100-£150k per unit more expensive than would have been generally anticipated, or have seen a 50%-75% increase in anticipated costs.
- 4.9 The ambitious programme set out in the SHIP is contingent on the sites being within RSL control/being brought forward in a timeous manner, the necessary funding being in place (both grant funding and private finance) and construction sector capacity to deliver at scale.
- 4.10 Council Officers continue to engage with RSL housing partners to bring forward projects that have been identified through the routine SHIP project prioritisation assessment and review process. This enables projects to be accelerated in the event of any additional funding and resources being made available. Quarterly Programme meetings with Berwickshire Housing Association, Eildon Housing Association, Scottish Borders Housing Association, Waverley Housing, Scottish Government (More Homes Division) and the Council are central to this project prioritisation and review process. Officers and partners also continue to proactively seek out and explore

potential additional site and project opportunities that can be secured for affordable housing.

- 4.11 As part of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan Guidance local authorities are also required to support a greater focus on wheelchair accessible housing which includes a wheelchair accessible housing target. The target for the Scottish Borders is 20 homes per annum with 15 being provided by RSLs. In 2022/23, 6 wheelchair accessible homes were built. While this is below the annual target the 3 year average annual delivery is 18 per year. Officers are not aware of any new wheelchair accessible homes being delivered in the private sector since the target was introduced.

5 ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO EMPTY HOMES

- 5.1 The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to develop a Local Housing Strategy, supported by an assessment of housing need and demand. This strategy sets out the strategic direction for housing investment and service delivery in the Scottish Borders. The current LHS and proposed LHS 2023-2028 identifies the need to bring empty properties back in to effective use.
- 5.2 In April 2021 the [Committee agreed](#) to part fund a full time, dedicated empty homes officer for a period of 24 months. Following successful recruitment the new Officer was appointed in July 2021.
- 5.3 The position was incorporated into the structure of the Housing Strategy, Policy and Development Service within Planning and Housing and over the last 21 months has contributed to the strategic objectives for empty homes as highlighted in the LHS, the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) and the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan (RRTP). Tackling empty properties has supported our approach to town centres and regeneration, helping improve the sustainability of town centres through the re-provisioning or re-purposing of existing buildings to help better meet the needs of the current/future population. The Officer has also supported the re-use of empty homes in more rural locations across the Borders.
- 5.4 The role co-ordinates cross-resource working with other Council services such as council tax, homelessness, environmental health, anti-social behaviour, legal, landlord registration and planning as well as external partners such as local RSLs, Rural Housing Scotland and South of Scotland Community Housing.
- 5.5 The dedicated Officer provides a range of services, advice and assistance tailored to the individual needs of each owner. Activity includes data collection, analysis and monitoring; contact with empty home owners and community organisations; case Management; managing the Matchmaker Scheme and delivery of the Empty Homes Grant. The [report to Committee in February 2023](#) provided an update in relation to the delivery of the Empty Homes Grant Scheme.

5.6 During the period April 2022 to March 2023 the officer has:

- Written to every empty home owner in the Borders;
- Had an active case load of 185 empty properties (around 11% of the total number of empty homes);
- Carried out 119 property visits
- Closed 36 cases where the home was brought back in to effective use. 18 of these required light touch intervention and a further 18 required significant Officer time and engagement to support.
- Supported and assessed 16 applications for empty homes grant;
- Registered 84 buyers in the Borders Matchmaker Scheme;
- Undertaken an ongoing programme of communications/introductions to all owners who move to the premium Council Tax rate;
- Undertaken an ongoing programme of pre-emptive lettering to owners who are on a discount code but will be on the premium rate within the next month
- Identifying correspondence addresses for empty home owners (the numbers with no correspondence address have reduced from 23% to 8% since the Officer has been active);
- Improved our understanding of why homes are empty and the pattern of use, and anticipated use, across the Borders;
- Responded to national consultations, presented at conferences and shared advice and best practice examples to other empty homes officers across Scotland; and
- Been shortlisted for the Empty Homes Partnership "Rising Star" award

5.7 In April 2023 the Executive Committee agreed this post would be made permanent to ensure this activity continues beyond July, when the Officers current temporary contract would have ended. The activity has been demonstrated to have a positive impact in terms of delivering on our strategic priorities. The costs of empty homes to the local economy impact on both the community and the Council. Community impacts include reduction in property values, anti-social behaviour, vandalism, increased levels of stress and anxiety and a loss of community pride. Bringing these properties back into use helps to reverse these negative effects. The benefits to the Council include an increased supply of housing across tenures, supporting communities, creating an improved property market, increased revenue through collection of council tax (if the property was previously exempt), potentially reduced legal costs and less intervention required by staff.

5.8 There are increasing challenges in terms of housing supply which this activity is helping address. The Housing Strategy Team are proactively working with prospective landlords and other services to explore how initiatives such as the empty homes grant scheme can be deployed in a way which supports the creation of private sector tenancy opportunities which meet a range of housing needs, including those engaging with the Homelessness service, housing for key workers and Ukrainian Displaced Persons. Additionally the team intend to expand the area of activity and focus by taking a more active role in commercial properties which are vacant and could be brought back in to use as housing, as well as considering vacant and derelict land opportunities and continuing to work proactively with the South of Scotland Community Housing and

Communities to support community led housing opportunities across the area.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

- (a) Ensuring the effective development and delivery of SHIP projects continues to be dependent on SBC's provision of core services, financial resource allocations from the Scottish Government, partner agencies and private developers and individuals.
- (b) There are a number of funding resources that the Council and its development partners have drawn upon including Affordable Housing Supply Programme Funding, Second Homes Council Tax, Development Contributions Registered Social Landlord Private Finance Borrowing, Charitable Bond funding, Scottish Water Grant Funding and Rural Housing Fund.
- (c) During 2022/23, the Council used Affordable Housing Policy Development Contributions to assist consultation activity in relation to the new proposed Local Housing Strategy and associated activity related to the housing needs of Gypsy and Gypsy Travellers.
- (d) During 2022/23, the Council used £0.488m Second Homes Council Tax funding to assist Eildon Housing Association to provide Extra Care Housing through conversion of the former Kelso High School, £0.271m for the development of the High St/Market place building in Jedburgh, £0.037m grant contribution to assist Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company deliver its Kirkhope Steading project, £0.021m towards costs of employing an Empty Homes Officer, £0.042m towards Empty Homes Grants and £0.021m to support the demolition and site clearance works at Melrose Road affordable housing site Galashiels. In addition a contribution of £0.140m was made to the Council's Revenue Budget as the annual recharge made to Second Homes Council Tax for Housing Strategy & Services staffing resources involved in the delivery of affordable housing.
- (e) The Second Homes Council Tax Affordable Housing Investment budget makes provision for the following spend commitments in 2023/24; £0.111m for demolition and site clearance works at Melrose Road, Galashiels, £0.929m grant towards costs of High St/Market Place Jedburgh, £0.458m for Empty Homes Grants, £0.450m to support the acquisition of an affordable housing site in the central Borders area, £0.300m to support the delivery of new affordable homes in Hawick and £0.208m transfer to revenue budget for staffing resources related to affordable and empty homes activity. This leaves an uncommitted balance of £2.911m.

Table 1: 2nd Homes Council Tax financial table

	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000
Funding brought forward	3,987	4,138	2,911	2,577	2,206	3,388
Anticipated 2nd Homes Council Tax	1,170	1,229	1,278	1,329	1,382	1,437
Total Funding Available	5,157	5,367	4,189	3,906	3,588	4,825
Current Investment Commitments	1,019	2,456	1,612	1,700	200	950
Available Funding	4,138	2,911	2,577	2,206	3,388	3,875

- (f) Scottish Government made a funding allocation of £16m from its Affordable Housing Supply Programme budget to the Scottish Borders area for 2022/23. The final outturn spend figure for financial year 2022/23 is £13,916,426.79. This is £2,083,573.21 below the funding allocation.
- (g) In addition, Scottish Government has also contributed an estimated additional £0.470m which has facilitated the individual home purchase of 8 homes through use of its Open Market Shared Equity scheme in 2022/23.
- (h) Scottish Government More Homes Division Officials have indicated that the Council and Registered Social Landlord partners should plan on the basis of an Affordable Housing Supply Programme allocation of £15.954m to Scottish Borders for 2023-2024; £16.010m in 2024/25 and £16.275m in 2025/26. A Resource Planning Assumption of £16.275m has been made for 2026/27.
- (i) The delivery of new supply affordable houses in 2022/23 will generate an estimated £0.151m additional Council Tax income for the Council in 2023/24, based on average of Band “C”. This income has been reflected in the Councils revenue budget. In addition the positive economic impact of the delivery of the affordable housing programme has an important role in reducing income inequality for people in the Borders, and has led to the creation of numerous direct construction jobs, apprenticeships, and indirect jobs within the construction supply chain.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) Delivery of the SHIP is largely dependent upon a number of variables not least of which relate to resource and other political and organisation decision making processes, most of which are beyond the control of the Council. As described in Section 4 of this report there are a number of challenges currently impacting on the delivery of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme, and significant pressures on the local supply of homes.
- (b) Delivery of the SHIP is also dependent upon RSLs continuing to secure ownership of sites and maintain a land-bank to provide more certainty to programme delivery. Officers will continue to work with partner RSLs to ensure that there is a strategic approach to land-banking for affordable housing.

- (c) In publishing its final report on the 17th January 2023 Internal Audit found examples of good practice and provided substantial assurance on the governance and controls in place to ensure efficient and effective use of funding and other resources for the provision of affordable housing to ensure achievement of the local housing strategy with partners.
- (d) Furthermore, the audit report also identified scope for improvement to formalise risk management arrangements, for the Strategic Housing Service, to ensure compliance with the Council's Risk Management Framework. One low-rated recommendation was made, in this regard, by Internal Audit and was agreed by the Lead Officer - Housing Strategy and Development. Follow-up meetings and work have since been undertaken to meet this recommendation, supported by the Corporate Risk Officer. A Strategic Housing Risk Register has been developed which is reflective of the objectives of the service and includes the delivery of the Strategic Housing Development Plan.

6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

- (a) In line with both Council policy and legislative requirement, the SHIP 2023-2028 has been subjected to an Integrated Impact Assessment. The outcome of that assessment did not identify any concerns arising from the delivery of the SHIP potentially adversely impacting on any of the equalities groups.
- (b) The development of SHIP 2023-2028 was predicated on the endorsement of the principle of Equalities as articulated in the SHIP Guidance. The SHIP and LHS were both subjected to an Integrated Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Rural Proofing Assessment.
- (c) Homes produced by Registered Social Landlords will be allocated according to their individual allocations policy and procedures. As a consequence of being an RSL, they are subject to the weight of statutory scrutiny via external Regulation and Inspection by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

6.4 Sustainable Development Goals

- (a) In accordance with Section 7 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 a pre-screening assessment of the SHIP 2023-2028 has been undertaken using the criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Act. The pre-screening assessment identified no or minimal effects in relation to the environment hence the SHIP is exempt from SEA requirements under Section 7 (1) of the Act.
- (b) By seeking to provide more new affordable houses, the SHIP promotes sustainable communities and help to address many of the housing supply challenges identified in the Local Housing Strategy.
- (c) The objectives of the SHIP are consistent with UN Sustainable Development Goals [SDG] 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities and 13 Climate Action. Specifically, the SHIP responds to the ambition of

SDG 11 by promoting access for all to adequate, safe and affordable Housing, by ensuring integrated, inclusive and sustainable settlement, and by strengthening regional development planning. With respect to SDG 13 development will be at least consistent with Scottish Building Standards and the national objective of net zero greenhouse gases by 2045.

6.5 Climate Change

- (a) While no direct impacts on the Council's carbon emissions arise as a result of the report recommendations, New Build housing will have a general effect on the region's carbon footprint. However, these effects are addressed within the Council's Planning and Building Standards processes, and will be consistent with meeting the housing requirements and standards as set out by the Scottish Government. RSLs aim that their new housing is built to "Silver Standard" which exceeds current Scottish Building Standards.
- (b) There are also likely to be positive effects by promoting sustainability through better use of existing stock. Bringing empty homes back in to use is a sustainable way of increasing the local supply of housing and has the environmental benefit of reduced CO2 production compared with new build.

6.6 Rural Proofing

- (a) Rural proofing applies to all areas of Scottish Borders classified by Scottish Government as 'remote rural' or 'accessible rural'. This applies to all areas of Scottish Borders out with the towns of Galashiels/Tweedbank, Hawick, Peebles, Kelso, Selkirk, Jedburgh, Eyemouth, and Innerleithen.
- (b) The SHIP Project Working Group carried out a Rural Proofing exercise as part of the preparation of the SHIP 2023-2028. It is considered that the delivery of the SHIP will have no unforeseen adverse impacts on the rural areas, and that the needs of rural areas have been properly taken into account. It is considered that the SHIP will have a positive effect by increasing the supply of affordable homes throughout the Scottish Borders.

6.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

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

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate

Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

7.2 The SHIP Working Group has been consulted and contributed to this report.

Approved by

Name - John Curry

Job Title - Director – Infrastructure and Environment

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Donna Bogdanovic	Lead Officer, Housing Strategy & Development Donna.bogdanovic@scotborders.gov.uk 01896 661392

Background Papers: Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-28.

Previous Minute Reference: Report by Director Infrastructure and Environment to Executive Committee 4 October 2022.

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

Contact us at: Housingenquiries@scotborders.gov.uk



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL LOCAL FESTIVAL GRANT SCHEME

Report by Director – Resilient Communities

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for a review of the Local Festival Grant Scheme to consider future provision of the Scheme from 2024/25 onwards.**
- 1.2 Currently, 29 Festivals across the Borders are provided with an annual grant to support insurance costs and public protection measures.
- 1.3 To ensure the continuity of grants while the review is undertaken, it is proposed that grants are issued as normal for 2023/24.
- 1.4 The review will involve stakeholders of the Scheme to ensure the options presented are reflective of the needs of local communities.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee:-**
 - (a) Approve the review of the Local Festival Grant Scheme which will be carried out in advance of 2024/25 budget planning.**
 - (b) Approve the establishment of a short-life Member/Officer Working Group to undertake the review and report back to the Executive Committee. The Working Group will include an Elected Member from each of the five localities.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 29 March 2005, the Executive Committee agreed recommendations made by a Working Group which was established to put forward proposals for the provision of grants to Community Councils, Local Festivals etc.
- 3.2 New levels of funding for 30 Local Festivals, based on populations and the inclusion of horse cavalcades for the larger festivals (populations to 3,500), were approved and automatic grant allocations were put in place.
- 3.3 The approved grant levels reflected;
 - o The increased cost of insurance' and
 - o The increased costs of public protection measures for festivals with horse cavalcades
- 3.4 The approved scheme had no eligibility criteria within its rules. It was agreed that grants be approved on a three yearly basis irrespective of governance, financial need or equality issues.
- 3.5 On 22 January 2013 the Council agreed recommendations to continue funding each of the local festivals at 2005 levels, to remove Reston which was no longer operating and to create a Grouping 4a to provide an enhancement to the Yetholm Festival Week in recognition of it having a horse cavalcade.
- 3.6 As part of the three yearly review, it was recommended that Burnfoot Carnival be included in the Local Festival Grant Scheme from 2015/16. This resulted in a budget growth of £2,750 and a total budget request of £85,110.28 (see Appendix 1). There have been no additions to the Scheme since then.
- 3.7 The current scheme was due for renewal in 2017 but it was agreed to extend the existing scheme whilst further work was undertaken in relation to public liability and insurance

4 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 While it's hard to quantify in hours or in a monetary value, local festivals are supported and run by local volunteers who provide a significant number of hours of support to make each festival a success.

Cavalcade festivals have experienced an increase in their public liability and insurance costs and as a result, some committees have requested that additional funding assistance be provided from SBC to help them cover costs.

- 4.2 Police Scotland has advised that their ability to support festivals is under review and there will likely be financial implications for festivals next year if they need to cover additional public protection requirements.

- 4.3 Each festival is required to submit an equality policy or provide an equalities statement before any grants can be awarded
- 4.4 Each festival is required to submit an application form along with annual accounts, constitution and any relevant invoices/receipts before funds can be released
- 4.5 A summary of grant claims for 2022/23 is detailed in Appendix 2. Whilst there are still some claims to be submitted, the expenditure submitted is in line with previous analysis undertaken and there is on average a surplus of 25% of grants used to support festival costs other than insurance and public liability.
- 4.6 Some existing festivals have been able to build up their reserves over a number of years.

There are examples of current festivals providing economic benefits to local towns and villages which includes increase in visitors and busier high streets. Currently no economic benefit analysis is asked for as part of a festival grant evaluation.

- 4.7 There are a number of festivals and events across the Borders currently sitting out-with the Local Festival Grant Scheme who have requested financial support to cover operational costs.
- 4.8 A one-off SBC Community Festivals and Events Small Grants Scheme of £70k has been made available in 2023/24 to support and develop local festivals and events. Grants of between £3k and £5k are available to enhance existing events, develop new ideas and help attract visitors to the area. As this is administered by Economic Development all successful applications must demonstrate a positive impact on visitor numbers and promote tourism.

5 PROPOSED REVIEW AND CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 It must be recognised how important these local festivals are to communities and the local economy and that they need support from the Council as part of a wider package of resources to enable them to take place.

As one of the oldest equestrian festivals in the world, the unique history of the Borders festivals and the customs that continue to be upheld and celebrated are a source of pride for local residents and play an important role in promoting the region and encouraging visitors. Analysis of the economic impact of festivals and the opportunities for tourism growth should be explored.

The festivals are linked in to Scottish Borders Council Event Strategy 2022-27 which aims to maximise the benefits derived from events delivered across the region - [Event strategy 2022-27 | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#).

Research and Evaluation is key to understanding progress within the events industry, and what events achieve for local communities and the Scottish Borders. Strengthening the evaluation of festivals and outcomes achieved will provide greater transparency of spend and impact that festivals achieve.

- 5.2 A review of the current scheme is well overdue and because of the increased challenges that some festivals are highlighting, as well as some newer festivals requesting support, it is proposed that a review is carried out over the summer months to consider changes to the scheme from April 2024. This will allow full consideration of the findings of the review as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25.
- 5.3 It is proposed that a short-life Member/Officer Working Group is set up to carry out the review which will report back to Executive Committee later in the year. In agreeing the membership it is proposed that there should be an elected member from each of the five localities.
- 5.4 In carrying out the review there will be wide engagement with all stakeholders

5.5 A key part of the review and the support going forward will be focussed on the economic, environmental and social sustainability of local festivals. Festivals create opportunities for communities to come together, build social capital and support a sense of wellbeing, much of which is generated through the role volunteers play in the success of festivals. Ideas of how festivals can strengthen their economic, environmental and social sustainability will be sought through the engagement process.

The review will seek to explore opportunities on how to increase and support volunteering. Key to this will be engagement with the new Third Sector Interface Borders Community Action.

- 5.5 Future arrangements will require consideration of eligibility criteria including appropriate governance, financial need and compliance with equality obligations.

Consideration also needs to be given to the current economic climate and the challenges this presents for community funding allocations.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

There are no further financial implications relating to this report but the provision of funding for local festivals would be considered under a review of the Scheme and any financial implications would be considered as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

- a) As the Local Festival Grant Scheme has no control measures this, in itself, represents a risk to the Council at this very early stage. As the Scheme has no control measures, limited evidence is therefore held to assure the Council that its duty to have due regard to the need to

eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between protected groups and others is being met in accordance with the Equality Act 2010

- b) Within the Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 3) all the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 are therefore categorised as high risk at this initial stage. However, this is purely based on the Council holding limited information on the Local Festivals it currently funds and it is expected that early in the review the risks will significantly diminish
- c) The risks will be mitigated by the proposal to undertake an in-depth review of the Scheme and report to Members before budgets are set for 2024/25 on the options available that will more adequately manage the risks.

6.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

The purpose of the proposal is to carry out an in-depth review of the Scheme and assess the options for the Scheme from 2024/25, primarily to ensure that the Council is meeting its statutory obligations in relation to the Equality Act 2010 and how it makes grants to the voluntary sector.

6.4 Sustainable Development Goals

There are no direct economic, social or environmental issues with this report which would affect the Council's sustainability policy.

6.5 Climate Change

There are no direct carbon emissions impacts as a result of this report

6.6 Rural Proofing

It is anticipated there will be no adverse impact on the rural area from the proposals contained in this report.

6.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report

6.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation are required as a result of this report

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Acting Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and the comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Name
Jenni Craig

Title
Director – Resilient Communities

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Jenni Craig	Director, Resilient Communities
Gillian Jardine	Community Co-ordinator

Background Papers:
Previous Minute Reference:

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

Contact us at Communities and Partnership -
communityengagement@scotborders.gov.uk

Appendix 1

LOCAL FESTIVALS FUNDING

	Population in 2014	Max. Grant 2022/23
GROUP 1		
Population over 10,000		
Hawick Common Riding Committee	13,833	£9,300.00
Galashiels Braw Lads Committee	12,365	£9,300.00
GROUP 2		
Population 3,500 - 10,000		
Peebles Beltane Festival	7,853	£6,500.00
Kelso Laddies Association	6,192	£6,500.00
Selkirk Common Riding Trust	5,640	£6,500.00
Jethart Callants Festival	3,946	£6,500.00
GROUP 3A		
Population 1,000 - 3,500 which have horse cavalcades		
Duns Summer Festival	2,479	£3,300.00
Melrose Festival Committee	2,007	£3,300.00
Presenting Coldstream Association	1,839	£3,300.00
West Linton Whipman Play Society	1,457	£3,300.00
Lauder Common Riding Committee	1,109	£3,300.00
GROUP 3B		
Population 1,000 - 3,500 without horse cavalcades		
Eyemouth Herring Queen	3,155	£2,750.00
St. Ronan's Festival Week	3,004	£2,750.00
Burnfoot Community Carnival	2,954	£2,750.00
Tweedbank Fair Committee	2,097	£2,750.00
Earlston Civic Week	1,793	£2,750.00
Chirnside Civic Week	1,244	£2,750.00
St. Boswells Village Committee	1,058	£2,750.00
GROUP 4A		
Population 500 - 1000 which have horse cavalcades		
Yetholm Festival Week	552	£775.00
GROUP 4B		
Population 500 - 1000 without horse cavalcades		
Newcastleton Music Festival	762	£500.00
Walkerburn Summer Festival	720	£500.00
Greenlaw Festival	639	£500.00
Stow Gala Day and Sports Committee	630	£500.00
Coldingham Gala Committee	572	£500.00
GROUP 5		
Population 300 - 500		
Cockburnspath Gala Week		£375.00
Gordon Civic Week		£375.00
Eddleston Summer Festival		£375.00
GROUP 6		

Population 100 - 300

Burnmouth Village Hall Committee

£210.00

GROUP 7

Professional Games

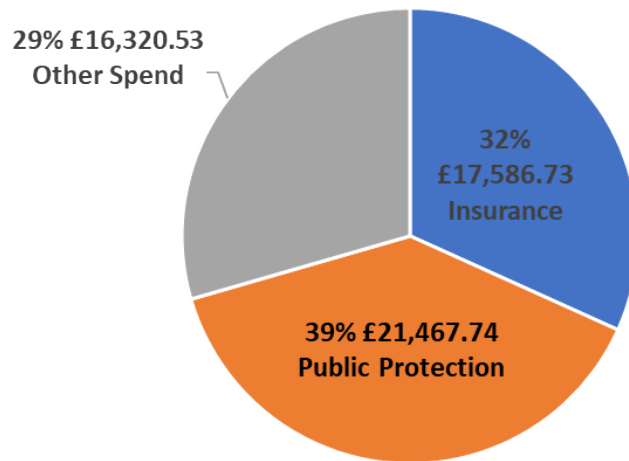
Morebattle Games Committee

£150.00

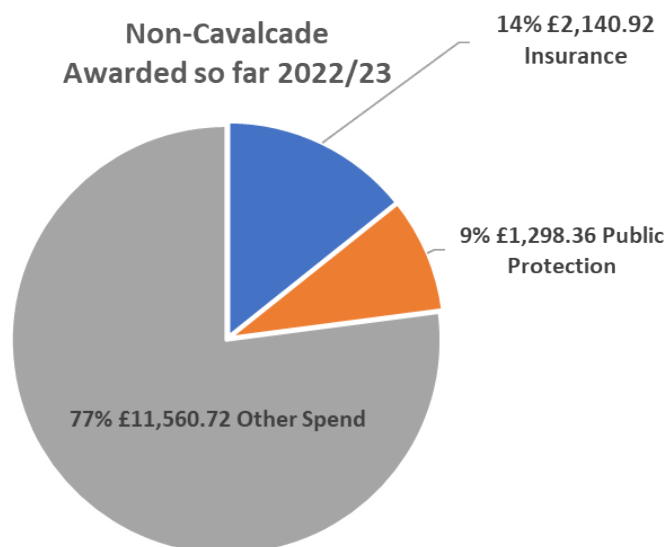
£85,110.00

Appendix 2

**Cavalcade
Awarded so far 2022/23**



**Non-Cavalcade
Awarded so far 2022/23**



Total Awarded to date for 2022/23: £76,875

Spent on Insurance/Public Protection: £48,993.75 (63.73%)

Spent on Other: £28,796.67



REVIEW OF SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Report by Director, Resilient Communities

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes to mitigate against the effect of the increase seen in community council insurance premiums, payable by community councils, between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and commence a review of financial support to community councils.**
- 1.2 As of May 2023 there were community councils operational in 66 of the 69 community council areas across the Borders.
- 1.3 The last review of funding and support in kind was undertaken in 2009. Since then the funding and in kind support has been enough to cover the cost of the core functions of community councils. However, the sharp rise in inflation has seen costs rise to a level that community councils are struggling to meet.
- 1.4 The current budget commitment to support community councils is £80,696.94. This is held within the Resilient Communities and Infrastructure and Environment departments.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee agrees:-**
- a) That a review of financial support to community councils is undertaken and agreed changes fed in to the budget setting process for 2024/25.**
 - b) That the difference in cost of the additional annual insurance premiums, payable by community councils, between 2021/22 and 2022/23 is covered by SBC on a one off basis.**
 - c) That support provided to the Community Council Network is also considered as part of the review.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There are currently 69 community council areas in the Scottish Borders. As of May 2023 there were community councils operational in 66 of these areas, the exceptions being Ayton, Jed Valley and Maxton & Mertoun.
- 3.2 The last review of funding and support in kind was undertaken in 2009 with recommendations presented to, and agreed by, Council in October that year.
- 3.3 Since 2009 the funding and in kind support provided has been enough to cover the cost of the core functions of community councils. However, the sharp rise in inflation has seen costs rise to a level that community councils are struggling to meet.

4 SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- 4.1 Support to Community Councils is as follows:

Support	Financial cost to SBC
Annual support grant	£50,950
Data Protection renewal	£2,760
Insurance ¹	£5,995.92
Hall hire reimbursement ¹	£5,991.02 (cost for last pre-Covid claims)
Path maintenance grant	£15,000
Total costs ²	£80,696.94

¹ Hall hire reimbursement and insurance costs generally increase year on year

² With the exception of the path maintenance grant all funding is top sliced from the Neighbourhood Support Fund.

Advice/support ³	Service
Elections/operational	Democratic Services
Support grant queries	Community & Partnerships Team
Insurance queries - general	Community & Partnerships Team
Insurance queries - specific	Insurance Team (City of Edinburgh Council)
Data Protection queries - general	Community & Partnerships Team
Data Protection queries - specific	Information Team
Christmas lights	Street Lighting Team
Environment	Neighbourhood Services
Planning (CCs are a statutory consultee)	Planning
Community resilience (not all groups are aligned to a community council)	Emergency Planning and Community & Partnerships Team

³ Additional advice and support in connection with non-community council specific issues is provided in the same way as to any group e.g. Neighbourhood Support Fund application

4.2 The financial support to community councils is broken down further in sections 5 to 10.

5 ANNUAL SUPPORT GRANT

5.1 The purpose of the annual support grant (ASG) is set out in the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils:

“All monies received by a Community Council, whether by way of grant, gift or loan, shall be applied to maintain its administrative structure and/or to further the objects of such Council.”

5.2 The ASG grant is made available to all community councils and is awarded upon the following conditions being met:

- a) Submission of annual accounts for the previous year
- b) The community council agrees to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councils
- c) Completion of an evaluation form for the previous year’s grant
- d) No more than the equivalent of two years annual grant held by way of reserves, excluding money ring fenced for specific initiatives.

5.3 The ASG funding is currently structured in five bands based on the population of the community council area:

Population	Funding	No. of CCs
Over 10,000	£1,780	2
4,000 – 10,000	£1,365	4
2,000 – 4,000	£990	8
500 – 2,000	£630	34
Under 500	£540	21

Scottish Borders Community Councils’ Network receives annual core funding of £1,250

6 ACCOMMODATION REIMBURSEMENT

6.1 Scottish Borders Council provides free use of premises owned and under the control of the Scottish Borders Council for the purposes of holding Community Council meetings; where such accommodation is not available 100% of hire costs are reimbursed.

7 DATA PROTECTION ACT

7.1 Scottish Borders Council covers the cost and administration of data protection renewals. The annual fee is £40 per community council.

8 INSURANCE - STANDARD

8.1 Scottish Borders Council covers the cost of standard insurance for all community councils in the Borders. This is provided by Zurich Municipal via the insurance team at City of Edinburgh Council through a shared service agreement.

8.2 Standard insurance cover comprises:

- a) Money
- b) Basic public liability
- c) Employers liability*
- d) Personal accident cover
- e) Employees personal accident cover*

*This cover is added on request and is currently in place for five community councils

8.3 The total cost of standard cover per community council, paid by SBC, for 2023/24 is set out in the table below:

No. of CCs	Type of cover and cost to cover each community council					Cost per CC	Total cost to SBC
	Money	Basic public liability	Employers liability	Personal accident			
				Standard	Employees		
64	£7.28	£67.20		£11.20		£85.68	£5,483.52
5	£7.28	£67.20	£11.20	£11.20	£5.60	£102.48	£512.40
Total							£5,995.92

8.4 The cost of the standard cover has increased since last year with the above figures representing an increase of just under 6%.

9 INSURANCE - ADDITIONAL

9.1 Additional cover refers to All Risk cover for items owned by a community council. This cover is available to each community council at an extra cost, which is payable by the community council. In 2023/23 the cost of All Risk cover represented between 1%–44% of a community council's annual grant.

9.2 To ensure that the additional cover is in place from the start of the year it is paid by Scottish Borders Council with the cost charged back to the relevant community councils.

9.3 Although the majority of items owned, and insured, by Community Councils are not required to carry out their core functions, as detailed below, they do demonstrate the wide range of activity that Community Councils undertake for the benefit of their communities.

"In addition to any other purpose which a Community Council may pursue, the general purpose of a Community Council shall be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the Local Authority for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents in relation to matters for which those authorities are responsible, and to take such action

in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable." *Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils*

- 9.4 We have seen Community Councils undertake more and more for the benefit of their communities. This was particularly true during the pandemic when many Community Council led resilience groups which became central to the Borders response.

10 ACCESS MAINTENANCE GRANT

- 10.1 Scottish Borders Council reimburses the costs, up to a maximum of £450, for work undertaken to clear and maintain local paths and rights of way.

11 NEXT STEPS

- 11.1 Not providing an appropriate level of funding and support for community councils to carry out the wide range of tasks they take on could be seen as short sighted at a time when public authorities are becoming more reliant on volunteer based action.
- 11.2 It is proposed to undertake a review of support to all community councils during 2023/24 with a view to feeding any agreed changes in to the setting process for 2024/25.
- 11.3 The increase in insurance costs from 2021/22 to 2022/23 saw premiums increase by as much as 150% for some and decrease by 71% for others for the same level of cover.
- 11.4 Due to the discussions taking place throughout the year the invoices for additional cover for 2022/23 will be issued this year. In order to mitigate the effect of the increased premiums it is proposed that SBC meets the difference in cost between the 2021/22 and 2022/23 premiums. The cost of doing so would be £1,027.04. This could be met from a projected underspend in the annual support grant allocations for 2023/24.

As part of the review, consideration will be given to any in-kind support which can be offered by SBC to Community Councils

Consideration also needs to be given to the current economic climate and the challenges this presents for community funding allocations.

12 IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Financial

The costs attached to the recommendations contained in this report are:

- a) £1,027.04 to cover the difference in cost of the annual premiums between 2021/22 and 2022/23 be covered by SBC on a one off basis. It is proposed that this be met from a projected underspend in the annual support grant allocations for 2023/24
- b) There are no financial implications connected to reviewing the funding to community councils. Although financial implications may arise as a

result of any recommendations contained within the review. These will be addressed in a future report.

12.2 Risk and Mitigations

To not undertake a review of the financial support to community councils, at a time when they are approaching Scottish Borders Council to say that their current financial commitments cannot be covered by the funding available, could be interpreted that Scottish Borders Council does not value the work they do. In turn this could sour the good relationships that exists between SBC and community councils at a time when public authorities are becoming more reliant on volunteer based action

12.3 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

A stage one IIA has been completed. It is anticipated that the recommendations in this report will help to foster and maintain good relations with those involved with community councils. Similarly it is anticipated that the recommendations will have a positive impact on all equality characteristics involved with community councils.

A full IIA has not been completed at this stage but would be undertaken on any proposals arising from a review of funding to community councils.

12.4 Sustainable Development Goals

The recommendations contained within this report would have a positive impact on UN Sustainable Development Goal of Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. This is through recognising that support is required to encourage and sustain community involvement and should be reviewed, as required, to ensure that it remains appropriate.

12.5 Climate Change

There are no impacts on climate change contained in the recommendations in this report.

12.6 Rural Proofing

n/a

12.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

12.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the recommendations in this report.

13 CONSULTATION

13.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Name: Jenni Craig

Title: Director, Resilient Communities

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Clare Malster	Participation Officer, 01835 826626

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: Scottish Borders Council, 1 October 2009

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

Contact us at Clare Malster, 01838 826626 cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL'S QUARTER 4 AND ANNUAL 2022/23 PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Director - People, Performance & Change

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13 June 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents a summary of Scottish Borders Council's Quarter 4 and Annual 2022/23 performance information.**
- 1.2 The information contained within this report will be made available on the SBC website: www.scotborders.gov.uk/performance

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee:-

- (a) Notes the Quarter 4 2022/23 Council Plan Key Milestones and Performance Indicators Report in Appendix 1.**
- (b) Notes the Quarter 4 2022/23 Community Action Team Performance Report in Appendix 2.**
- (c) Notes the Annual 2022/23 Performance Report in Appendix 3.**

3 BACKGROUND TO SBC PERFORMANCE REPORTING 2022/23

Quarterly Council Plan Performance Report

- 3.1 The Q4 Performance Milestones and Performance Indicators Report shows progress made against the 2022/23 Council Plan milestones and performance indicators for quarter 4. The report is shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Work continues on developing a new suite of performance indicators for 2023/24 which reflect the revised Council Plan.

Community Action Team Performance Report

- 3.3 The Community Action Team Performance Report has been updated to reflect Quarter 4 of 2022/23 and Annual performance. It is shown in Appendix 2.

Annual Council Performance Report

- 3.4 The Annual Performance Report shows progress made against the 2022/23 Council Plan milestones, performance indicators and Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators for the full year. The report is shown in Appendix 3.
- 3.5 Please note that the 2022/23 Unaudited Revenue Outturn Report referred to in the Introduction is also being presented to Executive Committee on the 13th June. An embedded link to the Council's 2022/23 Unaudited Revenue Outturn Report will be added after the Executive Committee.

4 COUNCIL PLAN – SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

- 3.6 Progress against the milestones this quarter has been predominately positive. Of the 27 milestones reported in this quarter 19 of them are showing positive progress and work continues on progressing a number of the long-term workstreams. There were 3 milestones which have been moved to the next council plan and there were 5 milestones where activity has not progressed as expected.

Please note that The Anti-Bullying Policy which was in the final stages of being completed in the Fulfilling Our Potential Milestones has now been agreed.

- 3.7 There were 74 milestones reported in 22/23. Of these, 63 were completed and 11 were not achieved.

5 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- 5.1 Of the 99 indicators presented for quarter 4 41 are progressing as expected and do not show grounds for concern. 24 are considered to be showing positive progress, and 15 are highlighted as areas of focus for improvement. Six are provided for information only, and there is a delay in receiving the latest information for 13 of them.

- 5.2 There were 355 Performance Indicators reported in 22/23. Of these, 214 are progressing as expected and do not show grounds for concern. 87 are considered to be showing positive progress, and 54 are highlighted as areas of focus for improvement.
- 5.3 A Dashboard via Power BI is being developed which will allow the public to access data about any Performance Indicator that they wish to see.

6 COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM – SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY AND IMPACT

- 6.1 An infographic summary on the Q4 impact of the Community Action Team (CAT) and an annual impact summary is provided at Appendix 2.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

7.2 Risk and Mitigations

Effective performance management arrangements will ensure that services, and those providing services on behalf of SBC, are aware of any weaknesses and can take corrective action in a timely manner, therefore mitigating any risks more effectively. The Council's Risk Management Policy and framework ensures that all services, and services delivered by third parties, identify and manage risks to the achievement of their objectives, with senior management providing appropriate levels of oversight. Performance should be enhanced by having robust risk management arrangements in place.

7.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

There are no adverse equality/diversity implications. Performance reporting may help the Council to identify and address any equality / diversity issues and improve processes and procedures.

7.4 Sustainable Development Goals

Economic, social and environmental impact of SBC actions can be monitored more effectively if there are effective performance reporting arrangements in place.

7.5 Climate Change

There are no significant Climate Change effects arising from the proposals contained in this report.

7.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result, rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

7.7 **Data Protection Impact Assessment**

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

7.8 **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.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The Acting Chief Financial Officer, the Interim Chief Officer Corporate Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director – People, Performance & Change, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received incorporated into the final report.

8.2 The Council Management Team have been consulted on this report and any comments received incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Clair Hepburn

Director - People, Performance & Change Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Julie Aitchison	Business Services Officer Tel: 01835 824000 Ext 8147

Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference: 14 March 2023

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. You can also be given information on other language translations as well as the provision of additional copies.

Contact us at Policy, Planning & Performance, Scottish Borders Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, performance@scotborders.gov.uk



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Q4 2022/23 MILESTONES & PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Page 209



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our potential



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant communities



Good health and wellbeing



Working together improving lives

Introduction



This is the Quarter 4 Performance Report for the 2022/23 Council Plan. It presents the Council's progress against the Key Milestones set out for Quarter 4 and provides an update on the Council's Performance Indicators. The report is structured into the 6 themes of the Council Plan.

For each theme the progress against key milestones is shown alongside the desired outcome or outcomes that it is contributing towards. Detail is then provided on the theme's performance indicators that are noted as being particularly positive, or areas of focus for improvement. All performance indicators are then summarised in a table, with the progress of each indicator identified as either positive, neutral, focus for improvement or for information only.

Indicators showing a **notable improvement**, or where the performance indicates a particularly **positive** position are shown in charts coloured in **green**

Indicators showing a notable **reduction** in performance, or where there is a **focus for improvement** are shown in charts coloured in **orange**

Performance Indicators Key

● Positive	There has been a notable improvement, or the data indicates a particularly positive position
○ Neutral	There has been no significant change since the previous review, and progress is satisfactory or as expected
● Focus for Improvement	There has been a notable reduction in performance, or the data suggests a position that we will be focusing on for improvement
í Information only	The indicator shows data for information purposes only

There has been a consistent **increase** in the number of people Registered for SB Alert



The number of bed days associated to **Delayed Discharges** have continued to **increase** (NHS data)



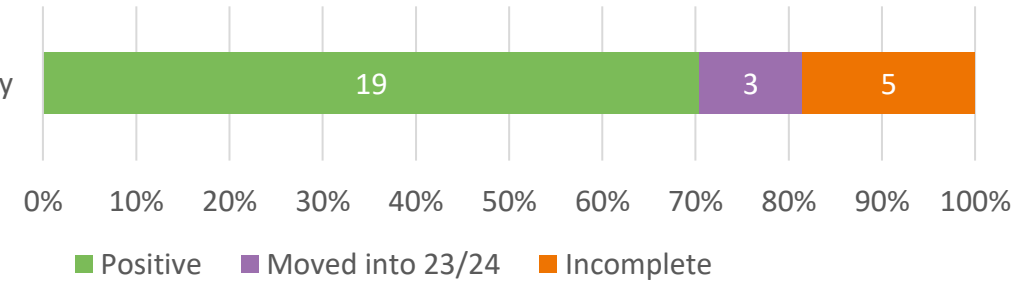
Summary



Key Milestones

Progress against the milestones this quarter has been predominately positive. Of the 27 milestones reported in this quarter 19 of them are showing positive progress and work continues on progressing a number of the long-term workstreams. There were 3 milestones which have been moved to the next council plan and there were 5 milestones where activity has not progressed as expected.

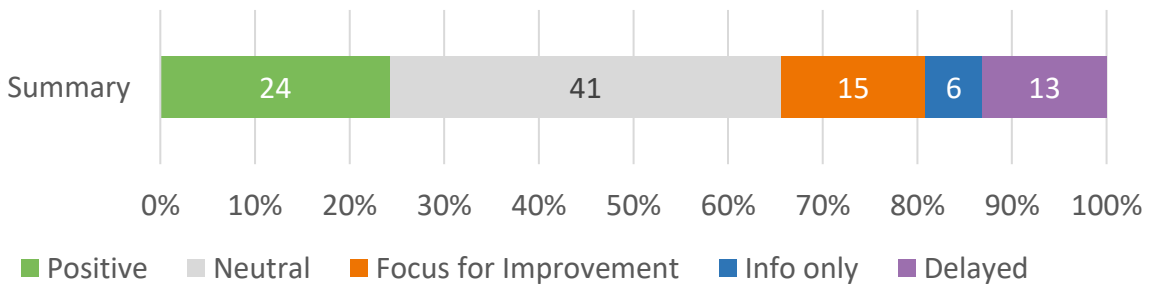
Milestone Summary



Performance Indicators

Of the 99 indicators presented 41 are progressing as expected and do not show grounds for concern. 24 are considered to be showing positive progress, and 15 are highlighted as areas of focus for improvement. Six are provided for information only, and there is a delay in receiving the latest information for 13 of them.

Indicator Summary



CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

PRIORITY: Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather



Update and improve our assessment of carbon emissions impacts across our organisation and the Scottish Borders

We have undertaken **baseline assessment** of **carbon emissions**, both:

- As an **organisation**
- For **Scottish Borders** area-wide

Page 212

Report by Edinburgh Climate Change Institute

- sets out **recommendations** on next steps
- identifies priority **carbon reduction** programmes and next steps for delivery

transport & buildings identified as priority next steps



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to meet or exceed our targets to deliver Net Zero by 2045
- An approach to energy in the Scottish Borders which is robust, affordable and does not contribute to climate change

Increase the number of Council Fleet all-electric vehicles by 65%, and the number of fleet charging points by at least 175%

100% increase of all-electric vehicles with electric fleet planned to be **80** vehicles by end of 22/23
(subject to delivery)



174.5% increase of fleet charging points from 7 to 103



64 charging points installed for the HQ Smart Grid Project

28 publically available



39 in-house charging points installed across the **Borders**



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to meet or exceed our targets to deliver Net Zero by 2045
- An approach to energy in the Scottish Borders which is robust, affordable and does not contribute to climate change

Commence development of an improved waste service through behaviour change, to reduce waste, and increase recycling

Kerbside Collection Survey undertaken in **2022**



Options appraisal ongoing and **informed** by **waste composition analysis**



Waste & Recycling webpages **updated** ✓

Webpage/app being developed



- help determine **what waste** goes in **what bin**
- bin day **reminder**

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to meet or exceed our targets to deliver Net Zero by 2045
- Enable change through increased public understanding of the need to change our behaviour around how we use resources and the need for increased resilience across our communities
- Protected, managed and restored environments which support the wellbeing of people and nature

CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

PRIORITY: Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather



Create a Scottish Borders Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) through the Borderlands Energy Master Plan to develop robust, affordable and sustainable local energy systems

Milestone not met as approach has changed. Updates below:

Page 213

New approach based on investment programme for businesses and communities

Design work for this approach being carried out



Energy Masterplan **completed** ✓
September 2022

Pilot being developed to demonstrate further **decarbonising**



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to meet or exceed our targets to deliver Net Zero by 2045
- An approach to energy in the Scottish Borders which is robust, affordable and does not contribute to climate change

Support a regional approach to land use management which delivers wider environmental goals through South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot and Borderlands Natural Capital Project

2nd round of stakeholder events completed in Q4

8 localities

2 external/online events

200+ attendees



Current drafting of **final stakeholder report** to be considered by relevant stakeholders.

Advisory Group



Membership being **finalised**

Regional Land Use Framework to be developed as **next stage**:

Subject to public **consultation**:

- Regional Economic Partnership will then consider adopting the framework as an **Action Plan**



Scottish Government to:

- provide **funding** for 2023/24
- **review** Regional Land Use Partnership pilots summer 2023
- **consider** further funding to existing 5 pilots in 2024/5



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Protected, managed and restored environments which support the wellbeing of people and nature

CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

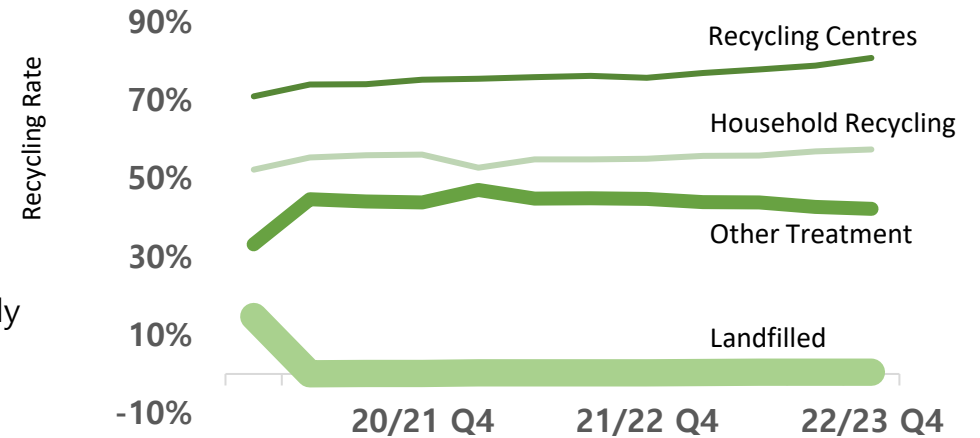
PRIORITY: Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather



Service	Indicator	Q4 22/23	Status
Waste Page 214	Annual Household Recycling Rate	57.33%	●
	Annual Household Waste Landfilled Rate	0.45%	●
	Annual Household Waste to Other Treatment	42.23%	●
	Annual Average Community Recycling Centre Recycling Rate	80.79%	●
Energy Services	Electricity Consumption (kWh)	2,954,048	○
	Gas Consumption (kWh)	6,114,793	●

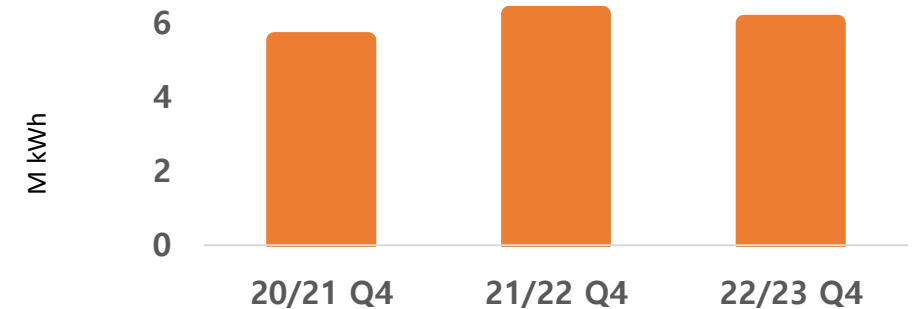
The Recycling Rate within the Scottish Borders has continued to **increase** whilst the waste sent to landfill **continues to be below 1%**

This **positive situation** is due to a new contract commencing in July 2019, and further improvements introduced by the contractor for sorting recycling centre waste



Gas consumption is at a similar level to the same period last year. However, there continues to be an **upward trend**. This is due to weather conditions and increased Covid ventilation requirements

There was also an **increase** in costs of 204% compared to the same quarter last year due to price increases



FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

PRIORITY: Empower communities and schools to deliver a high quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children and families



Complete an Engagement strategy which will focus on gathering and acting upon the views of children and young people and which enables young people to experience their rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

This action has been moved to next year's plan

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Increased participation and engagement of children, young people, families, communities and other key stakeholders

Implement an Equity Strategy to target action and resource to address inequalities in attainment and achievement



Strategy has been **implemented** and **approved**. It can be **viewed** on the SBC website [Equity Strategy 2021-2026 | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/equity-strategy-2021-2026)

Actions now being **carried out**

All short-term outcomes **achieved** or **exceeded** in year one

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Excellence in Learning
- A service which meets the diverse needs of our people and reduces inequalities
- Increased participation and engagement of children, young people, families, communities and other key stakeholders

Develop an action plan based upon agreed Health and Wellbeing census outcomes

4 areas for action incorporated in Education Improvement Plan

1. Bullying

- 2012 Respectful Relationships Policy being updated
- Respectful Relationship and Anti-Bullying Policy 2023 in final draft



– will include additional resources to support learning setting

3. Body Image

- Summer term PSE programmes reviewed to ensure increased focus, using up-to-date materials



2. Caring responsibilities

- Jo Glover, CHIMES, presented at February 2023 Child Protection Coordinator's business meeting and re-emphasised importance of young carer support
- Jo Glover will engage with each school cluster in the summer term to ensure all schools are providing young carer support.



4. Loneliness, stress and worry

- Kooth & Togetherall support available for children & young people, in particular with a focus around exam stress
- Summer term - Further work required to support schools in this area



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Effective mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people

FULLFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

PRIORITY: Empower communities and schools to deliver a high quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children and families



Identify 'Nurture Bases' in each locality to support primary school aged children with social and emotional difficulties

Nurture bases are up and running in the following primary schools:

- Page 216
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Selkirk <ul style="list-style-type: none">Knowepark | Gala <ul style="list-style-type: none">BalmoralLanglee | Hawick <ul style="list-style-type: none">Stirches |
|--|--|--|

Nurture bases are in progress in the following primary schools:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Selkirk <ul style="list-style-type: none">Philiphaugh | Peebles <ul style="list-style-type: none">St Ronan's | Hawick <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wilton |
|--|---|--|

Primary schools delivering alternative wellbeing & nurturing approaches

- Eyemouth**
 - Eyemouth



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- A service which meets the diverse needs of our people and reduces inequalities
- Increased participation and engagement of children, young people, families, communities and other key stakeholders
- Effective mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people

Support development of digital skills and learning in our schools and our communities (including the Inspire Academy)

The Inspire Team have been:



- Team Teaching
- Mentoring
- Coaching

Supporting teaching **core digital skills** to young people

Delivering parental **Cyber security** sessions

Supporting schools with **improvement plans** for digital approaches

Delivering workshops on **improving digital** skills to **wider council services:**

- Systems Admin
- SW
- Roads
- CLD
- NHS



27 teachers completed the new pilot of **Apple Learning Coach** programme



New **App Development** course for senior pupils



Live online lessons



Consistent use of **Showbie** for electronic submission and marking of schoolwork



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Excellence in Learning

FULLFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

PRIORITY: Empower communities and schools to deliver a high quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children and families



Service	Indicator	Q4 22/23	Status
Education	What percentage of primary school pupils attend school?	93.24%	●
	What percentage of secondary school pupils attend school?	89.59%	●
	What percentage of primary and secondary school pupils attend school?	91.40%	●
	Number of Exclusion Incidents – Primary Schools	3	○
	How many primary school pupils were excluded?	3	○
	Number of Exclusion Incidents - Secondary Schools	42	○
	How many secondary school pupils were excluded?	39	○
	Number of Exclusion Incidents – Primary and Secondary Schools	45	○
	How many primary and secondary school pupils were excluded?	42	○
	Number of Schools/Nurseries inspected per Quarter	1	í
Modern Apprentices	New Modern Apprentices employed by SBC	29	●
	Current Modern Apprentices employed within SBC	35	○
	Modern Apprentices securing SBC employment after apprenticeship Cumulative Year to Date	24	●

Key: ● Positive ○ Neutral ● Focus for Improvement í Information only

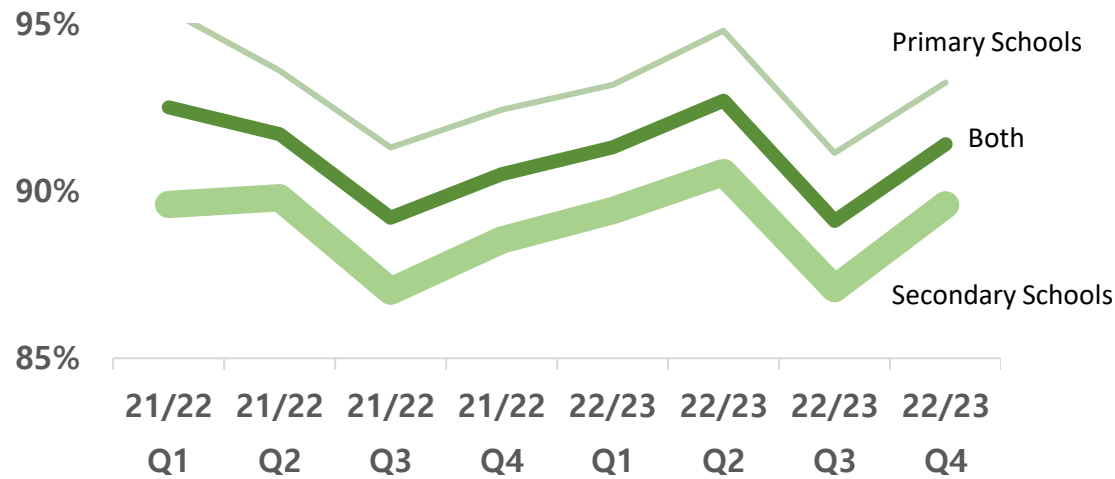
FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

PRIORITY: Empower communities and schools to deliver a high quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children and families

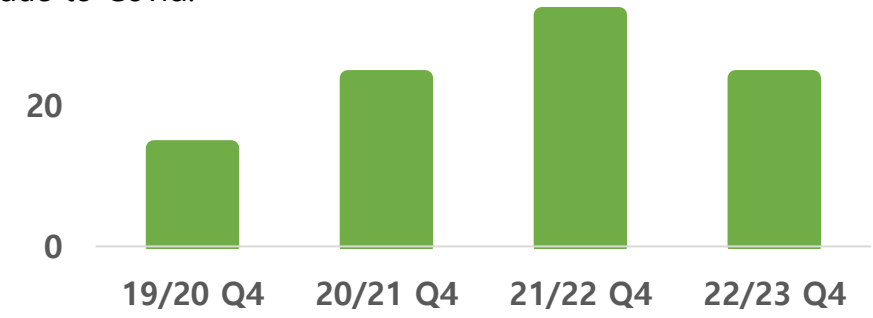


Page 218

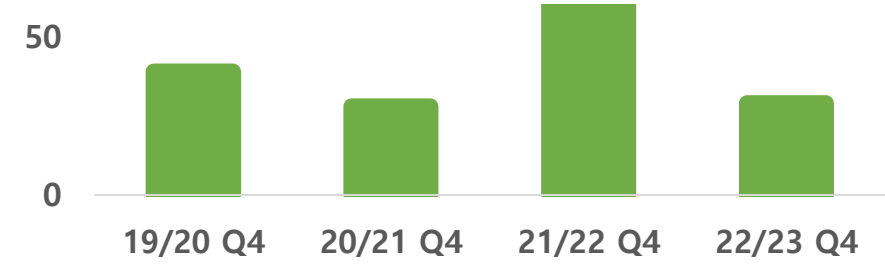
School attendance has followed the same pattern over the last 2 years following Covid. However, the Q4 22/23 figures are slightly **improved** for both **Primary** and **Secondary** compared to the Q4 21/22 figures.



Modern Apprentices **securing SBC employment** after apprenticeship in the year continued to be **consistent**. Positive figures have been reported over the same quarter for the previous 3 years. The lower figure in 2019/20 was due to Covid.



The number of **New Modern Apprentices** employed by SBC remains at a positive level



STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY: Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.

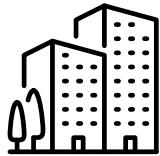


Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- A stronger economy, where existing and new businesses and social enterprises grow and expand, increasing productivity and investment into the Scottish Borders
- Support the employability prospects of young people, families and adults (Borderlands Growth Deal projects)

Progress delivery of the Borders Innovation Park at Tweedbank under the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal

Phase 1 of the Innovation Park is **complete**



Phases 2 and 3 are currently **under review**



Develop a South of Scotland Inward Investment Strategy with South of Scotland Enterprise

Proposition developed by Scottish Development International (SDI) and South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) is in **final stages**



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- A stronger economy, where existing and new businesses and social enterprises grow and expand, increasing productivity and investment into the Scottish Borders
- Support the employability prospects of young people, families and adults (Borderlands Growth Deal projects)

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- A stronger economy, where existing and new businesses and social enterprises grow and expand, increasing productivity and investment into the Scottish Borders
- Support the employability prospects of young people, families and adults (Borderlands Growth Deal projects)

Begin delivery of new business space at Coldstream as part of the Borderlands Deal

Application for planning consent is currently being **considered**



Design work has **begun**



Strengthen opportunities to support local supply chains and 'Community Wealth Building'



Progressed a Local Butcher Meat Pilot Project in secondary schools



Supported **42 leases** for village hall committees and community groups

Adopted **Real Living Wage** for Modern Apprentices



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- A stronger economy, where existing and new businesses and social enterprises grow and expand, increasing productivity and investment into the Scottish Borders
- Support the employability prospects of young people, families and adults (Borderlands Growth Deal projects)

STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY: Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.



Service	Indicator	Q4 22/23	Status
Major Capital Projects	RAG status is "Green"	11	○
	RAG status is "Amber"	6	○
	RAG status is "Red"	0	○
Working Age Population	Working age population (16 - 64) employment rate	79.4% (Q3)	●
	Working age population (16 - 64) Claimant Count (including Universal Credit and JSA)	3%	○
	Working age population (18 - 24) Claimant Count (including Universal Credit and JSA)	4.40%	○
Customer Advice & Support - Financial Inclusion	Number of People referred in the quarter	530	○
	Monetary Gain for cases closed in the quarter	£1,107,568	○
	Cumulative Monetary Gain for cases closed in the year to date	£3,945,542	○
Customer Advice & Support – Housing Benefit	New Claims (Avg No. of Days to process)	17.48	○
	Change Events (Avg No. of Days to process)	2.61	●
Business Gateway	Total number of new Business Start-Ups (Business Gateway)	6	●
	Number of clients attending start-up workshops/seminars (Business Gateway)	Information Delayed	
Economic Dev & Procurement	Occupancy Rates of Industrial and Commercial Units	88%	○
Community Benefit Clauses	Total Number of Contracts Awarded with Community Benefit Clauses (CBC) included ** Reported Q2 & Q4	22	○
	Number of new Employment and Skills opportunities delivered as a result of Community Benefit Clauses (CBC) ** Reported Q2 & Q4	26	○

* Please Note that there is a lag of one Quarter for data provided for employment rates

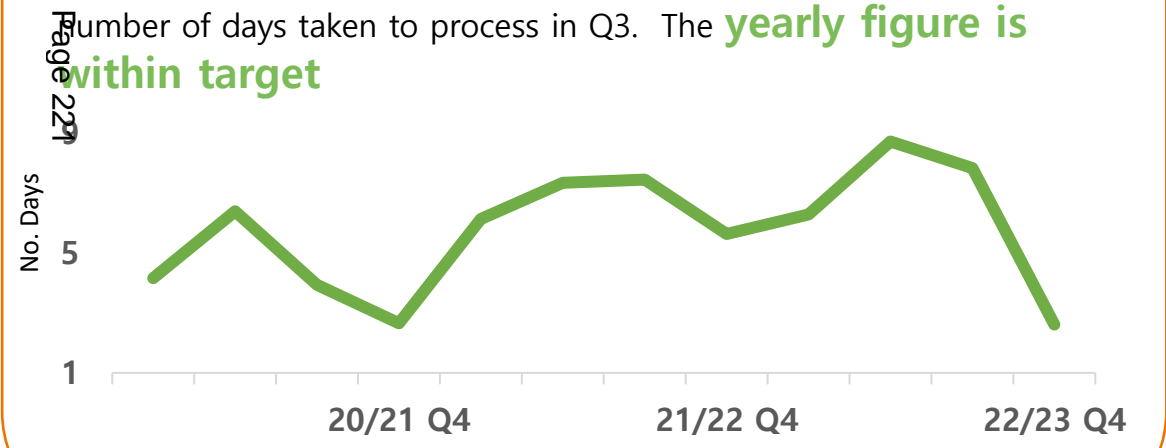
Key: ● Positive ○ Neutral ● Focus for Improvement ⓘ Information only

STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

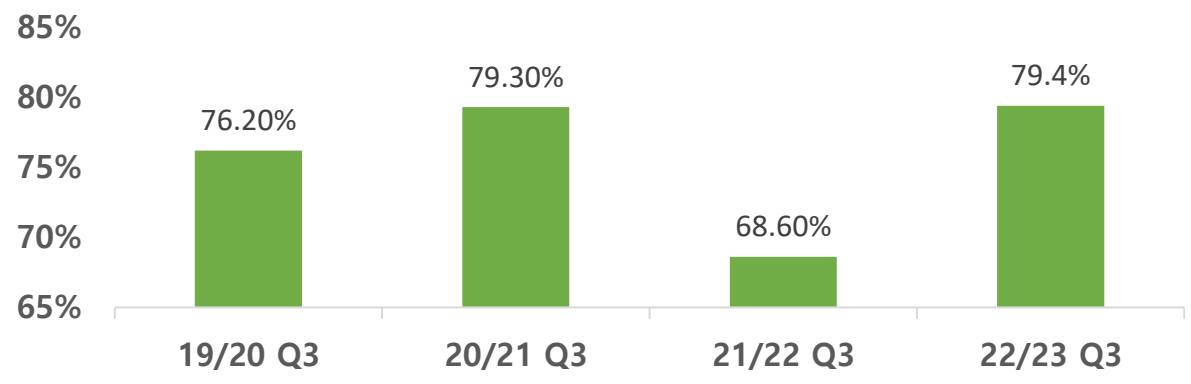
PRIORITY: Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework - making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.



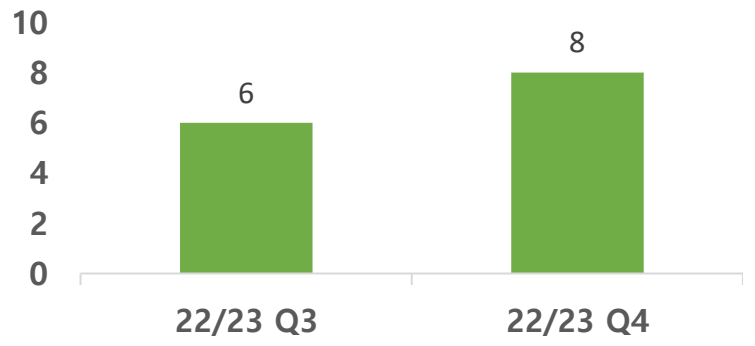
In Q4 there was a predicted drop in the number of days taken to process a change. This followed the automation of housing benefit change event recording which resulted in an expected increase in the number of days taken to process in Q3. The **yearly figure is within target**



The **Working age population 16-64 Employment Rate** in the Scottish Borders has **increased** to the highest figure in 4 years



The total number of **new Business Start-Ups** have only been collected for the last 2 quarters. The figure for both quarters has been **above target**



(through Business Gateway)

EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

PRIORITY: Support and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



Progress our investment plan in play areas and outdoor community spaces

Community engagement

undertaken or underway at **7** sites, each community identifying priorities for play

Page 222



Regular meetings of **Members' Reference Group** to discuss and make amendments



Completed:

- New play area and associated drainage works at **Duns** Public Park
- New play area installation underway at Allerley Well Park, **Jedburgh**
- New skate park installed at Victoria Park, **Peebles**

Completion of **community glasshouse** within Wilton Lodge Park Walled Garden, **Hawick**



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Modern, sustainable and simplified services that meet the needs of communities and other customers
- Services delivery arrangements aligned with the needs and priorities of communities
- Sustainable use of our land and buildings
- Reduce the number of children in poverty; and reduce the impact of living in poverty on families

Completion of at least 15 community-led Place Plans across the Borders communities (including the 4 target Borderlands communities) in line with a programme agreed with Area Partnerships

Milestone not met as approach has changed. Updates below:

Changed from **15** Place Plans to **54** Communities for a more **inclusive** approach

- Includes **4** Borderlands Towns (can have funding provided through place plans)



Borderlands Communities (**Eyemouth, Galashiels, Jedburgh, Hawick**) met in March to discuss forming "**Town Teams**"



- Structures emerging in the four towns
- Similar approach being taken in **Selkirk**

Continue to work with **Third Sector Interface** who will recruit a Capacity Building Support Officer to support Place Making



Place Making Updates and Information available: [Place Programme \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Community-led place plans across rural communities and towns

EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

PRIORITY: Support and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Community-led place plans across rural communities and towns
- Modern, sustainable and simplified services that meet the needs of communities and other customers
- Services delivery arrangements aligned with the needs and priorities of communities

Continue to develop an approach to budgeting which engages our communities (Participatory Budgeting)

Delivery programme for 2023/24 is being **developed**

Target for 2022/23 has been **met** ✓

Participatory Budgeting is now called **Community Choices**

Completion of the Review of Area Partnerships

This action has been moved to next year's plan

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Community-led place plans across rural communities and towns
- Modern, sustainable and simplified services that meet the needs of communities and other customers
- Services delivery arrangements aligned with the needs and priorities of communities

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Reduce the number of children in poverty; and reduce the impact of living in poverty on families

Deliver Scottish Borders Council's Anti-poverty Strategy Action Plan

Progress report to Council due in **Quarter 1 2023/24**



Achieving progress through **Partnership Plans**



- Over **£1m** distributed from Cost of Living Support Fund
- **£5k** of Gift Cards distributed
- **£21k** spent on creation of 17 warm spaces

Build on the Locality and Hub model developed in response to the pandemic to provide practical, joined-up support to communities

Agencies discuss **joined up approaches** to manage waiting lists, and respond to issues affecting the local community



Health & Social Care Huddles have **continued** multiple times a week



Community Meetings have **continued fortnightly** ✓

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Modern, sustainable and simplified services that meet the needs of communities and other customers
- Services delivery arrangements aligned with the needs and priorities of communities

EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

PRIORITY: Support and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



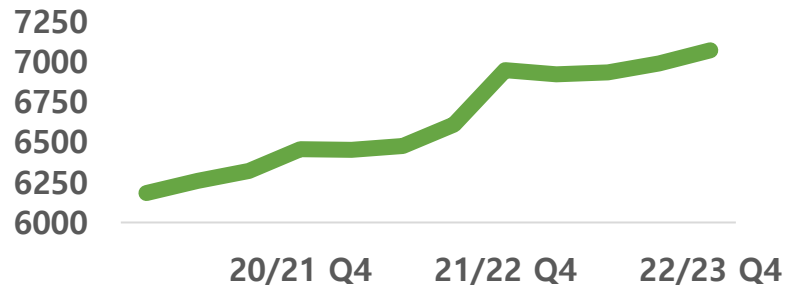
Service	Indicator	Q4 22/23	Status
Communities & Partnerships - Asset Transfers	Number of Requests Received	0	○
	Number of Requests Agreed	1	○
	Number of Requests Refused	0	○
Communities & Partnerships - Participation Request	Number of Requests Received	0	○
	Number of Requests Agreed	0	○
	Number of Requests Refused	0	○
Communities & Partnerships	The number of people carrying out volunteer work with SBC	331	○
Communities & Partnerships – Value of Funding Awarded	Total Scottish Borders	£101.9K	○
	Berwickshire	£24.1K	○
	Cheviot	£20.6K	○
	Eildon	£24.8K	○
	Teviot & Liddesdale	£23.1K	○
	Tweeddale	£9K	○
	Borderswide	£0	○
	Neighbourhood Small Schemes Fund – Total Value of funds awarded (cumulative)	£400,765	●
Community Resilience	SB Alert - No. of people registered	7,073	●
	No. of Active community resilience plans (cumulative)	57	●
	No. of Progressing community resilience plans (cumulative)	3	●

EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

PRIORITY: Support and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



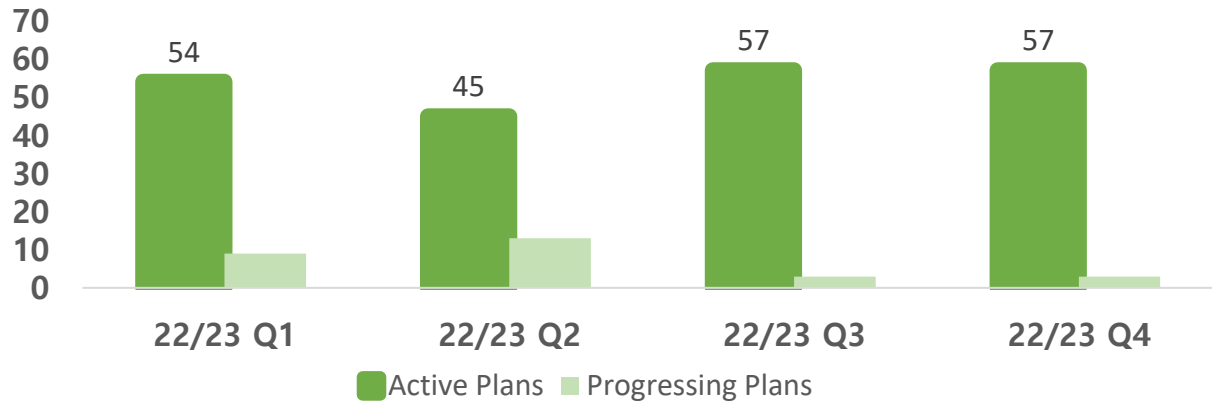
There has been a consistent **increase** in the number of people Registered for SB Alert



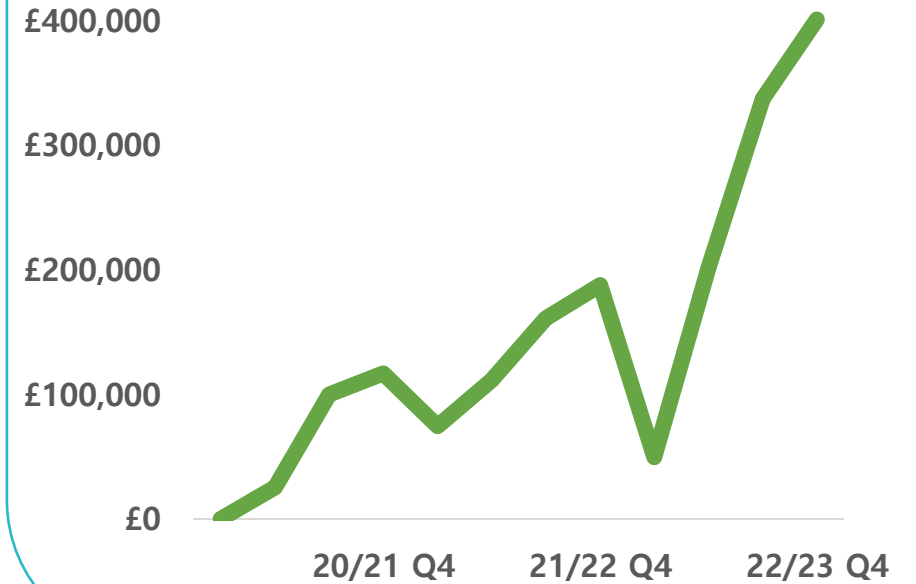
Page 225

Following a reduction of active resilience plans earlier in the year, there has been an **increase** in Q3 and this figure remained **consistent** in Q4.

Progressing resilience plans have remained at a higher level than previous years



There has been a consistent **increase** in the Total Value of funds awarded to the Neighbourhood Small Schemes Fund



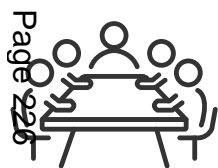
GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

PRIORITY: The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Review of the Sports and Cultural Strategies for the Scottish Borders

Milestone not met as now being taken forward as part of wider Live Borders review. Updates below:



Approval sought from Council on **30th March** for a strategic review of the SBC and Live Borders partnership

Subject to approval:

- **Steering Group** will be established to oversee work
- Work will **conclude** in **October 2023**
- Work will involve a review of **all current strategies**



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- People have access to quality cultural, leisure and sport activities

Develop and deliver the projects linked to the current Health And Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan and the projects delivered via the Social Work Review

Delivery against **Health and Social Care Partnership 2018/23 Strategic Plan complete**



New Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Strategic Framework covering **2023-26** now in place

Social Work Board



- Board focusses on **all projects** pertaining to Social Work Services

Ongoing activity regarding structure and alignment of SW services



Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Improved National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and Public Health Priorities
- Work with partners to keep 'The Promise' in Scottish Borders, so that every child grows up loved, safe and respected and able to realise their full potential
- Our services are flexible and will meet the outcomes of any future National Care Service

Deliver the action plan to narrow Health Inequalities

Delivery is **ongoing**



Identifying and **reviewing** local data



- Will **inform** understanding of health inequalities in the Borders
- Will identify **solutions**

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Improved National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and Public Health Priorities

Develop a Council Commissioning Framework, which includes Social Care, CGI and Live Borders

This action has been moved to next year's plan

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- The right services commissioned and developed with partners for Health and Social Care

GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

PRIORITY: The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Service	Indicator	Q4 22/23	Status
Social Work C&F	Looked After Children (aged 12+) in family-based placements compared to those in residential placements	64%	●
	Looked After Children (All ages) in family-based placements compared to those in residential placements	74%	●
	Number of Looked After Children (LAC)	205	●
	Number of Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) held about a child	98	<i>i</i>
	Number of children on Child Protection Register	35	<i>i</i>
Adult Protection	Number of Concerns	54	○
	Number of Investigations	43	○
Economic Development & Procurement	Additional homes provided affordable to people in the Borders, based on our wages?	59	●
NHS	Bed days associated with delayed discharges in residents aged 75+; rate per 1,000 population	330	●

* Please Note that there is a lag of one Quarter for data provided for NHS data

Key: ● Positive ○ Neutral ● Focus for Improvement *i* Information only

GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

PRIORITY: The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Service	Indicator	Q4 22/23	Status
Safer Communities	Number of Referrals To Domestic Abuse Services (Cumulative)	392	●
	Number of reported incidents of domestic abuse (cumulative)	Published later in year	
	Number of High Risk domestic abuse cases discussed at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) (cumulative)	133	●
	The percentage of referrals into the Mediation Service that were progressed and agreement was reached (cumulative)	75%	●
	The percentage of individuals who were satisfied with the Mediation Intervention on exit from the service (Cumulative)	No data yet as new PI	
	The number of referrals into the Mediation Service (Cumulative)	18	●
	The number of reported ASB Incidents (Cumulative)	Published later in year	
	Number of ASB Early Interventions	734	●
	Number monitored for ASB	1,271	●
	Number of Group 1-5 recorded crimes and offences (cumulative)	Published later in year	

Road Incidents

Unfortunately there were 5 fatalities as the result of road accidents in the Scottish Borders in Quarter 4 of 2022. This is an increase of 3 from the preceding 3 month period and an increase of 4 from the corresponding quarter 4 in 2021. All the fatalities actually occurred in the same month and there were two incidences of double fatalities resulting from the same road crash. Discussions with Police Scotland have not indicated any pattern to the sudden spike in fatality numbers, albeit it was noted that drivers were predominantly in an older age bracket.

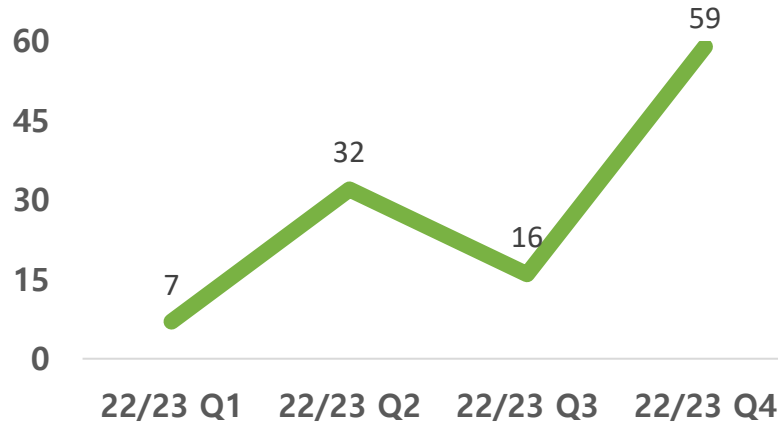
There were 13 people seriously injured as a result of road accidents in the Scottish Borders in the final Quarter of 2022. This is 1 more than the equivalent period of 2021, but 3 down on the previous quarter.

GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

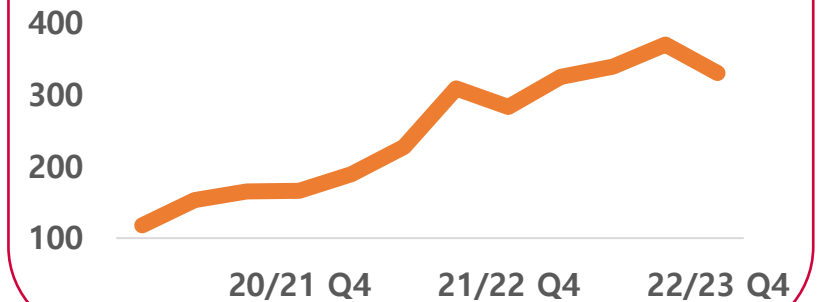
PRIORITY: The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



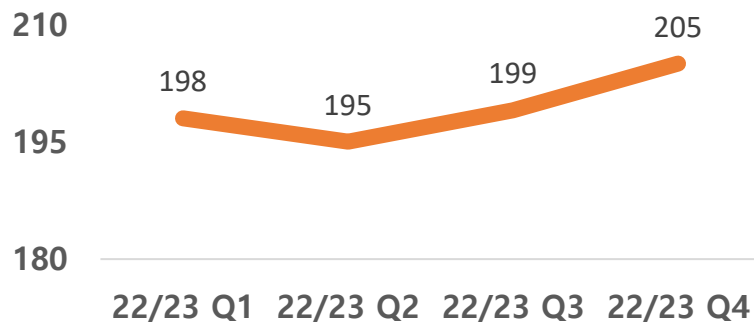
The number of **Additional homes provided** affordable to people in the Borders, based on our wages has **increased** over 22/23 with number in Q4 the highest of the year



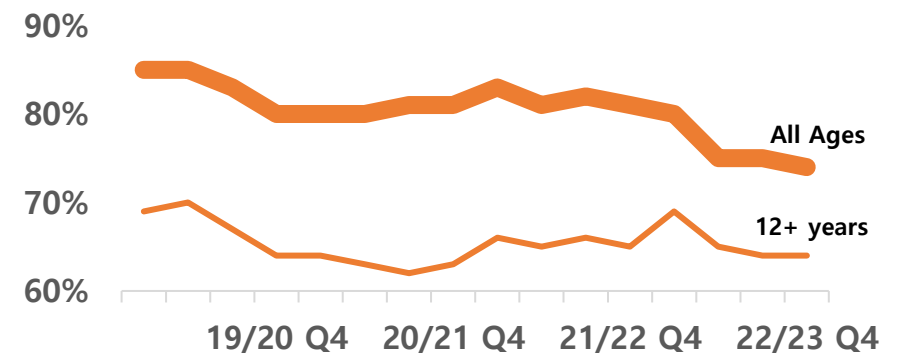
The number of bed days associated to **Delayed Discharges** have decreased this quarter but are still an area with a **focus for improvement** (NHS data)



The number of **Looked After Children** has remained relatively consistent over 22/23, although the number has **increased slightly** again in Q4



The percentage of **Looked After Children in family-based placements** in Q3 had **decreased** for all children and also for those aged only 12 years and over. The **Q4** figure has **remained** at this **level**

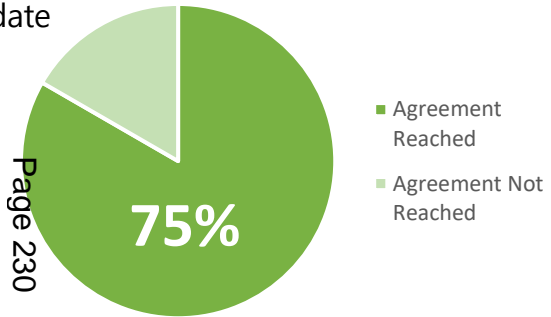


GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

PRIORITY: The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.

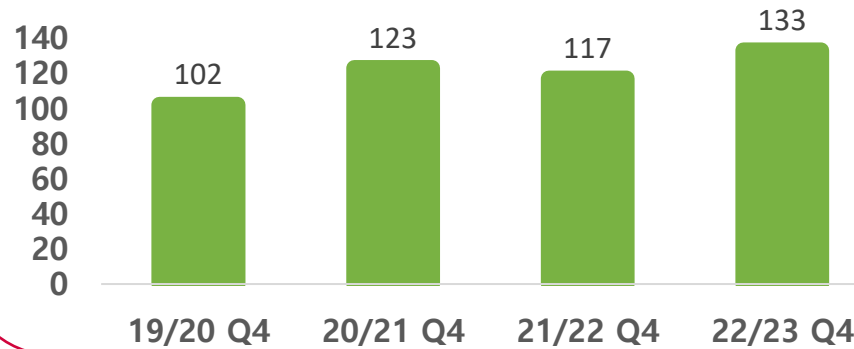


75% of referrals into the Mediation Service were progressed and agreement was reached in the year to date

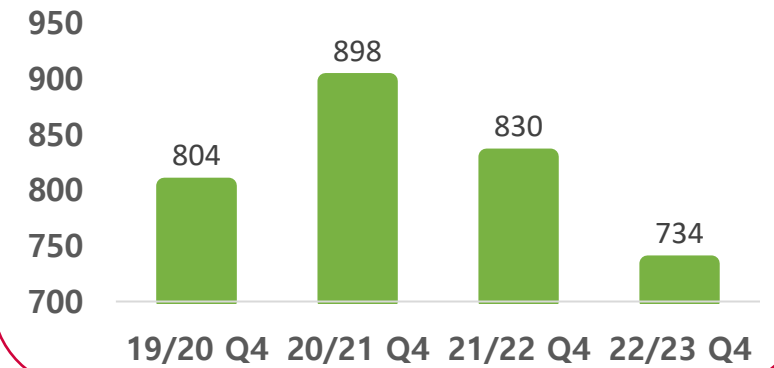


Page 230

There has been an **increase** in the number of **High Risk domestic abuse cases discussed at** Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (**MARAC**) over the last 4 years

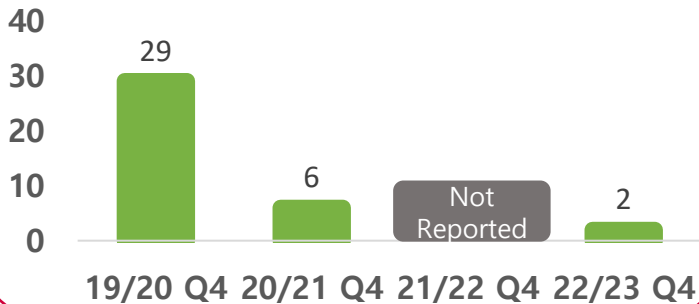


There has been a **decrease** in the number of **Anti-Social Behaviour Early Interventions**

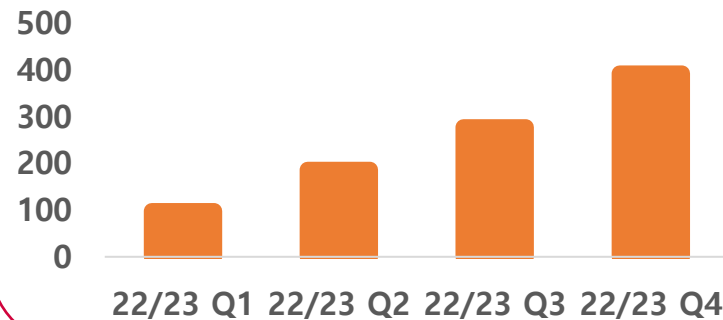


There has been a **decrease** in the number of **Referrals into the Mediation Service** since 2019/20

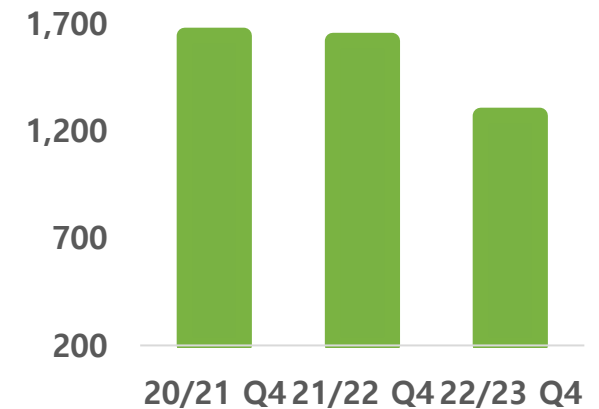
Figures not reported in 21/22



There has been an **increase** in the number of **referrals** made to the **Domestic Abuse Service** in the year to date



There has been an overall **decrease** in the number of cases monitored for **Anti-Social Behaviour** in Q4 in 22/23



WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

PRIORITY: Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Demonstrate clear benefits from SBC's Digital Strategy, focusing on best customer experience, including: improved customer access to joined up services and information, simplified processes, and mobile solutions for frontline services

The **Digital Customer Access** project continues and provides customers with a **customer portal** to access and track a range services online including:

Page 231

MyScotBorders

Account for customers to request and track a range of services online including **Council Tax** account and arranging direct debits. So far **12,600** customers have signed up

Digital forms

Over 200 e-forms and processes have been delivered to gather the right information first time



Back office integration

Allows services to notify the customer the outcome of their issue automatically



Self-service

Back office case management tools allow customers to manage any cases they've raised in their account

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Digital solutions that enable high quality customer experience and efficient services
- Performance-driven services
- Modern services, which are continually evolving in line with Council Plan priorities

Review of all SBC's Partnership working to ensure effectiveness, optimal use of shared resources and collective clarity on the outcomes most important for the people of the Scottish Borders

A review of SBC's Partnership working did not take place this year although it is still planned to take place in the future.

There has been a **review** of the Community Planning Partnership ✓

Partnership working continues to support Place Making

A partnership approach continues across delivery of Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal programmes

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- SBC working with all partners in a joined up way

Ensure all staff know and understand SBC's vision and values within the Council Plan, and the Competency and Behaviours Frameworks, as part of annual appraisal

Competencies included in **appraisals**

Managers and staff measuring performance by competencies ✓

Work ongoing to increase awareness of SBC's vision and values within the Council Plan

Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone

- Performance-driven services

WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

PRIORITY: Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Service	Indicator	Q4 22/23	Status
Planning Permission	Av.time (wks) taken to process all planning apps - Maj Dev. - ADJUSTED (cumulative)	Data unavailable until Q1 23/24	
	Av.time (wks) taken to process all planning apps - Local Dev (non-householder) - ADJUSTED (cumulative)	Data unavailable until Q1 23/24	
	Av.time (wks) taken to process all planning apps - Local Dev (householder) - ADJUSTED (cumulative)	Data unavailable until Q1 23/24	
	Number of Planning Applications Received	362	<i>i</i>
Council Tax	Council Tax – In Year Collection Level	96.57%	●
Property	Capital Receipts Generated (cumulative)	Information Delayed	
	Properties surplus to requirements	Information Delayed	
	Properties actively being marketed	Information Delayed	
	Properties progressed to "under offer"	Information Delayed	
*Complaints Handling	Average times: the average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage one	7.66	●
	Performance against timescales: the number of complaints closed at stage one within 5 working days as percentage of total number of stage one complaints	71.19%	●
	Average times: the average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage two	38.56	●
	Performance against timescales: the number of complaints closed at stage two within 20 working days as percentage of total number of stage two complaints	6.25%	●
	Average times: the average time in working days to respond to complaints after escalation	30.23	●
	Performance against timescales: the number of escalated complaints closed within 20 working days as a percentage of total number of escalated stage two complaints	30.77%	●
	Number of Complaints Closed	211	<i>i</i>

Key: ● Positive ○ Neutral ● Focus for Improvement *i* Information only

WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

PRIORITY: Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Service	Indicator	Q4 22/23	Status
Freedom of Information	FOI Requests Received	416	<i>i</i>
	Percentage of FOI Requests Completed on Time	88%	●
Social Media	Number of Facebook Engagements	1,878,968	○
	Number of Twitter Engagements	183,599	○
Assessor	Council Tax Valuation List-Time taken to add new properties to the List	85%	●
	Valuation Roll (Non Domestic)-Time taken to amend the valuation roll to reflect new, altered or demolished properties	47%	●
Staff Absences	SBC Absence Rate – Staff	6.29%	○
	SBC Absence Rate – Teaching Staff	4.72%	○
	Staff Absence Rate (overall)	5.91%	○
Economic Dev & Procurement	Percentage of Invoices paid within 30 days	94%	○
Customer Contact	*Voice calls Answered	Information Delayed	

* Please note that this PI is place of the previous Customer Contact PIs

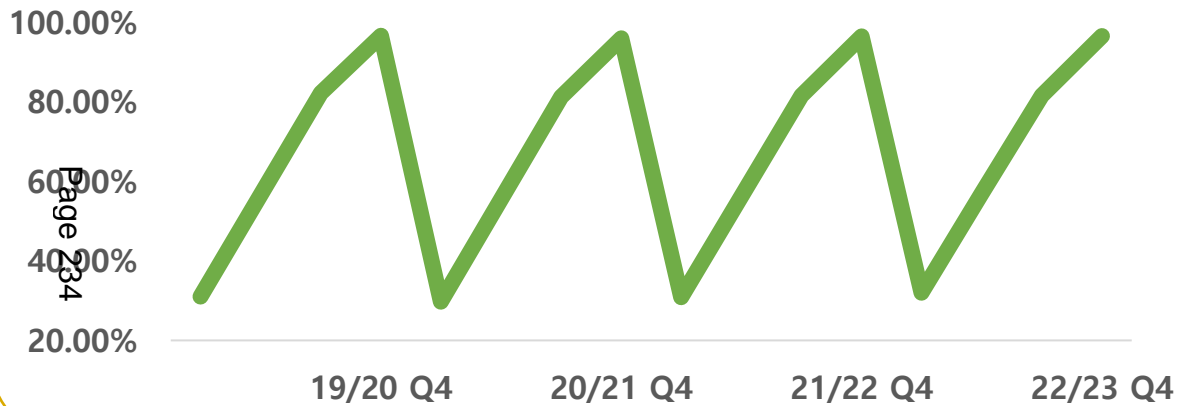
Key: ● Positive ○ Neutral ● Focus for Improvement *i* Information only

WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

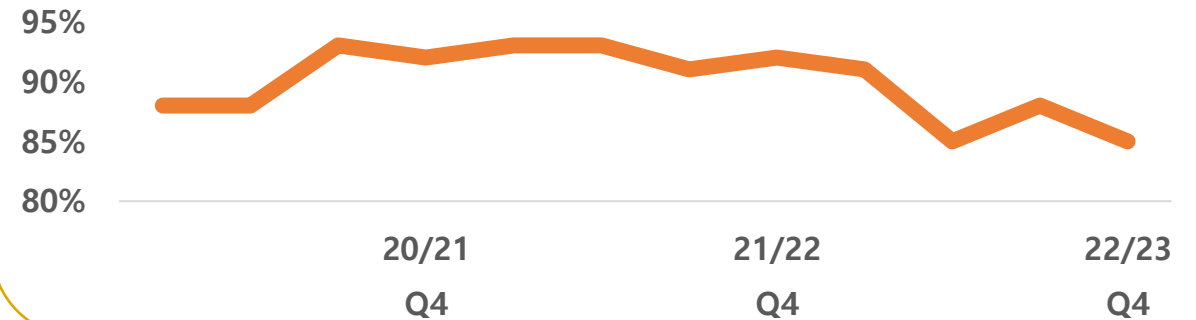
PRIORITY: Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



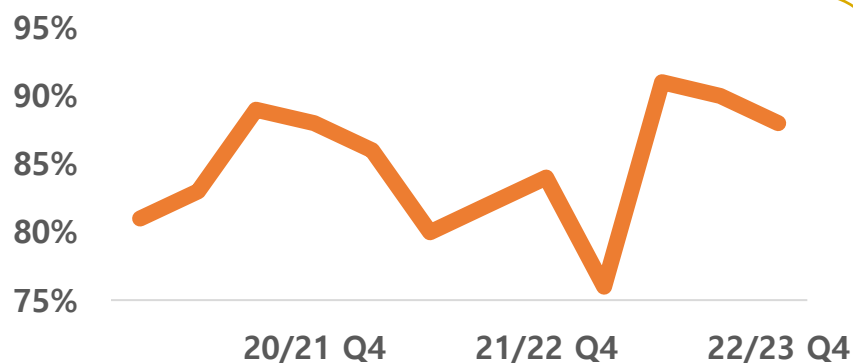
The **Council Tax – In Year Collection** percentage Level has **remained consistent** and **above target** for the last 4 financial years



The **percentage of new properties being added to the Council Tax Valuation List** is **85%** against our target of **93%**. Resources were diverted away from this for the final year of a 3-year revaluation. Following the completion of this, figures should improve for 23/24.

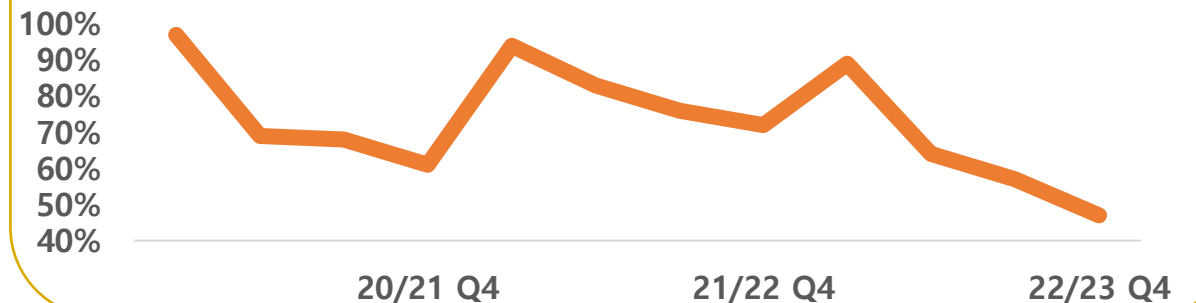


Although the percentage of FOI Requests Completed on Time remains high, further action needs to take place in order to meet the **target of 100%**



The **time taken to amend the valuation roll to reflect new, altered or demolished properties** has **decreased to 47%**.

Resources were diverted away from this for the final year of a 3-year revaluation. Following the completion of this, figures should improve for 23/24.

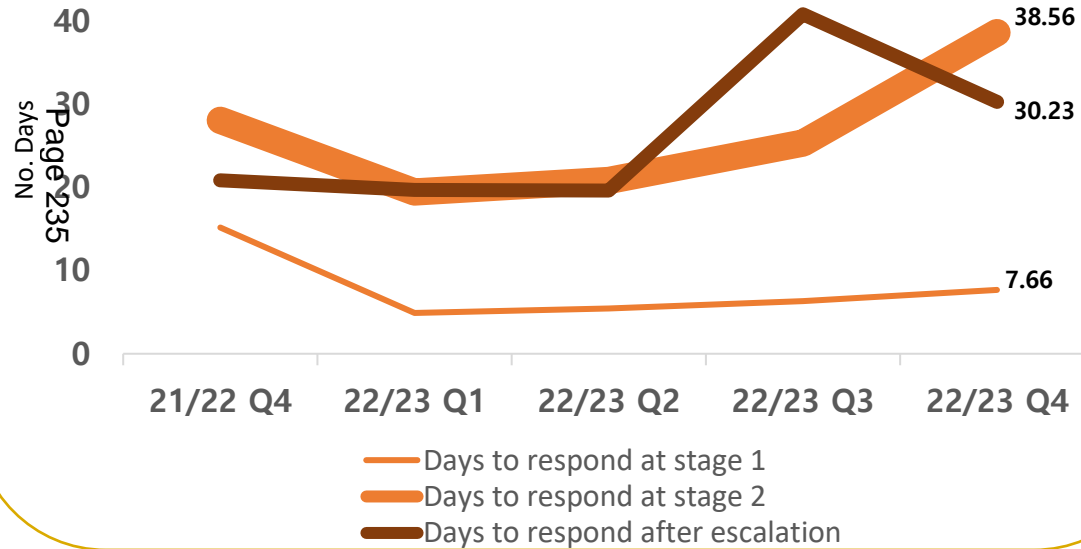


WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

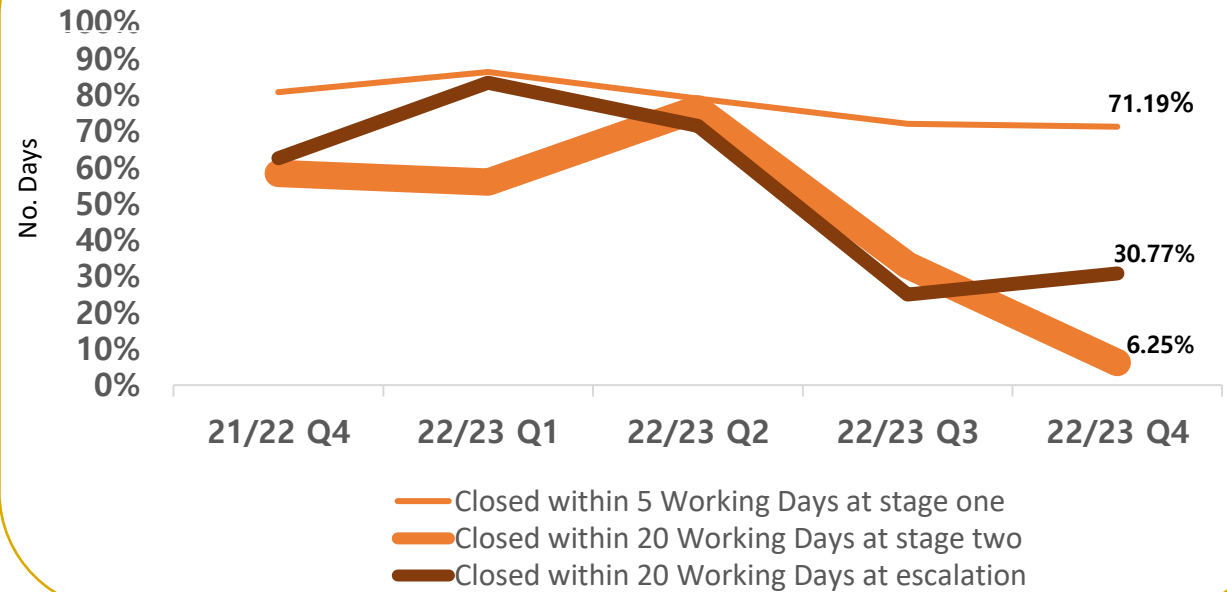
PRIORITY: Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



The number of days taken to respond to complaints at **stages 1 and 2** have **increased**. However, although the number of days taken to respond **after escalation** has **decreased**, this is still an area to **focus on improvement**

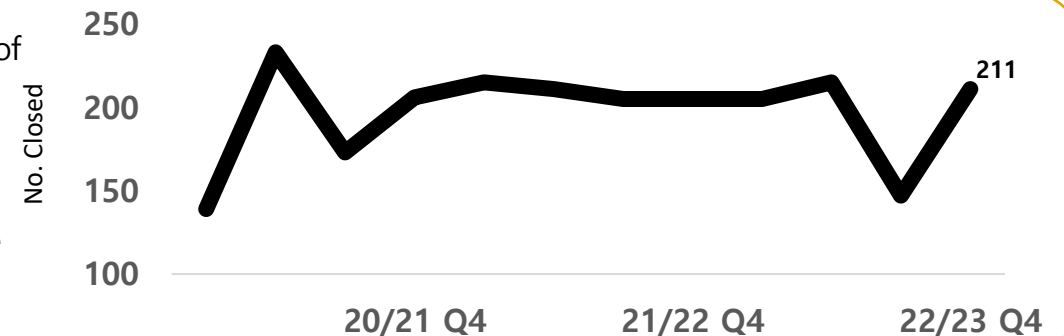


The percentage of complaints closed within target timescales has **reduced**



A **new system** to record complaints was implemented in Q3 and we expect to see an increase in performance going forwards.

The number of complaints closed has stayed at a consistent level over the last 3 years



This page is intentionally left blank



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Page 237 Q4 2022/23 CAT REPORT



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our potential



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant communities



Good health and wellbeing



Working together improving lives



Q3 Community Action Team Report

This report gives details of the actions of the Community Action Team (CAT) over Quarter 4 and an Annual Summary.

During Q4 of 2022/23 the Community Action Team has:

- Carried out 158 hours of foot patrols, 1080 hours of mobile patrols, and 171 static road checks
- Issued 83 parking tickets and 2 Anti-Social Behaviour warning letters to under 18s
- Carried out 19 Person Drug searches (16% positive) and 16 Premises Drug searches (63% positive)

Page 2/8

During the full year of 2022/23 the Community Action Team has:

- Carried out 686 hours of foot patrols, 4893 hours of mobile patrols, and 374 static road checks
- Issued 353 parking tickets and 56 Anti-Social Behaviour warning letters to under 18s
- Carried out 81 Person Drug searches (50% positive) and 59 Premises Drug searches (80% positive)



COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

IMPACT REPORT FOR QUARTER 4 - JANUARY 2023 to MARCH 2023

BERWICKSHIRE	CHEVIOT	EILDON	TEVIOT	TWEEDDALE
TASKING DURING PERIOD	TASKING DURING PERIOD	TASKING DURING PERIOD	TASKING DURING PERIOD	TASKING DURING PERIOD
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Speeding issues reported in smaller villages in the Berwickshire area. Reports of off-road motorcycles in Monynut forest. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parking Issues reported in Kelso. The Winter Safety Campaign took place throughout the winter months. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Problems with young people causing issues at and near to the Transport Interchange in Galashiels Issues with young drivers in Galashiels, including a large January gathering. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A high risk male wanted on warrant had been avoiding police for months. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Issues reported at various locations in Peebles. SBCAT addressed road traffic offences including drink drivers in March.

All Localities
In March SBCAT joined forces with 9 other English and Scottish police forces to carry out static and mobile patrols through the night, to deter and detect acquisitive crime.

EVIDENCE OF IMPACT	EVIDENCE OF IMPACT	EVIDENCE OF IMPACT	EVIDENCE OF IMPACT	EVIDENCE OF IMPACT
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SBCAT have deployed regularly with a speed gun to deter speeding and have stopped and provided advice and guidance when necessary. Patrols carried out and joint working with East Lothian have resulted in reduced incidents. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parking enforcement carried out in Kelso with letters posted to local businesses and tickets issued. Static road checks were carried out where motorists were stopped and their vehicles and tyres checked. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Extra patrols of the area and engagement with young people has resulted in a significant drop in incidents reported. CAT officers attended the gathering and ensured safety. Two tickets were issued for no MOT and Dangerous Driving. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The male was arrested in January after SBCAT plain clothed operation in Hawick. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work alongside the Community Policing Team and partners saw a drop in reported incidents. A male was arrested for drink driving, resisting arrest and police assault and was banned for 3 years and given 100 hours community service.

All Localities
28 static road checks were conducted in March. 10 persons were either given a fixed penalty ticket or reported to the procurator fiscal for offences..

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM (CAT) ACTIONS																				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Raised in Quarter	5	5	6	6	4	3	4	4	10	5	12	8	5	6	7	2	6	3	5	10
Accepted in Quarter	2	4	3	3	3	3	1	2	7	4	7	6	3	3	5	1	2	2	3	5
% of tasking accepted by the CAT across all localities					2021/22 73%								2022/23 60%							

NOTE: Not all issues received and discussed at the CAT oversight group meeting are taken on as actions by the CAT. Some actions may be more appropriately followed up and actioned by another service within SBC or by a partner organisation. Also some actions are tasked directly through Police Scotland so are not reflected in the figures above but show the impact the team is having in the Borders.

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

IMPACT REPORT FOR QUARTER 4 - JANUARY 2023 to MARCH 2023



Page 240

HI-VISIBILITY FOOT PATROL (HOURS)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
254	170	104	158

Foot patrols are the number hours CAT officers spend in a specific location carrying out foot patrols. The figure quoted is in individual officer hours.

MOBILE PATROL (HOURS)



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1589	1190	1034	1080

Mobile patrols are those carried out in marked Police Scotland vehicles and can involve 1 or more officers. The figure quoted is in individual officer hours.

STATIC ROAD CHECKS



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
64	68	71	171

Static road checks are proactive stops of vehicles in known problem locations to prevent or detect criminal or antisocial acts involving vehicles.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WARNING LETTERS ISSUED TO UNDER 18s



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
17	17	20	2

Where young people aged under 18 are evidenced committing antisocial behaviour (including drinking alcohol) warning letters are issued to parents/guardians to advise them of the situation.

NUMBER OF DRUG SEARCHES UNDERTAKEN PERSONS



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
34	13	15	19

16% of searches were positive for drugs in quarter 4.

NUMBER OF DRUG SEARCHES UNDERTAKEN PREMISES



Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
13	13	17	16

63% of searches were positive for drugs in quarter 4.

	BERWICKSHIRE				CHEVIOT				EILDON				TEVIOT				TWEEDDALE			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
PARKING: No of Tickets Issued	1	2	0	10	37	35	18	17	28	11	42	45	49	18	13	1	6	3	7	10
2022/23 Year all localities	Q1				Q2				Q3				Q4							
	121				69				80				83							



COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

IMPACT REPORT FOR 2022-23

Page 241

HI-VISIBILITY FOOT PATROL (HOURS)



686 Foot Patrol Hours
Hours during 2022/23

ANNUAL TOTALS			
20-21	1,365	21-22	961

NUMBER OF DRUG SEARCHES UNDERTAKEN PERSONS



81 drug searches of people were undertaken in 2022/23

ANNUAL TOTALS			
20-21	274	21-22	173

MOBILE PATROL (HOURS)



4,893 Mobile Patrol
Hours during 2022/23

ANNUAL TOTALS			
20-21	5,854	21-22	6,261

PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE SEARCHES PERSONS



50% of searches were positive for drugs in 2022/23

STATIC ROAD CHECKS



374 Static Road Checks
carried out during 2022/23

ANNUAL TOTALS			
20-21	284	21-22	277

NUMBER OF DRUG SEARCHES UNDERTAKEN PREMISES



59 drug searches of premises were undertaken in 2022/23

ANNUAL TOTALS			
20-21	74	21-22	43

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WARNING LETTERS ISSUED TO UNDER 18s



56 ASB Warning Letters
Issued to under 18s during 2022/23

ANNUAL TOTALS			
20-21	185	21-22	143

PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE SEARCHES PREMISES



80% of searches were positive for drugs in 2022/23

NUMBER OF PARKING TICKETS ISSUED



353 parking tickets
issued during 2022/23

ANNUAL TOTALS			
20-21	844	21-22	748



This page is intentionally left blank



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Annual Performance Report 2022/23

Page 243



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our potential



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant communities



Good health and wellbeing



Working together improving lives



Introduction

The Annual Performance Report presents a summary of the Scottish Borders Council's performance information for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

The Council has set out in its plan six outcomes that it seeks to achieve, shown in the image below.

For each outcome the report summarises the Council's position against:

- The milestones that were set out to be achieved this year
- The organisation's performance indicators
- How the Council compares against other local authorities in Scotland

Page 244



2022/23 has continued to be a challenging environment within which to deliver services. The COVID-19 recovery period has continued to affect the Council's finances and operating model. Unprecedented market conditions and inflationary pressures, pressures from pay award and staff recruitment and retention challenges have also added pressure.

To meet the financial pressures the Council set out a savings plan of £12.027m for 2022/23. This was successfully achieved through £8.934m of permanent savings and £3.093m temporary savings.

In addition to the above a net unaudited outturn underspend of £1.532m was achieved in the 2022/23 revenue budget. Further details on the Council's final outturn for 2022/23 can be found in the Council's 2022/23 Unaudited Revenue Outturn Report published on the Council's website.

The Council has continued to progress its Performance Management Framework throughout 2022/23. Work continues on developing a revised suite of performance indicators, and increasing the use of benchmarking. A service self-assessment tool has been developed which is being trialled across a number of services to support enhancing their performance. Business intelligence technology also continues to be implemented to enhance use of data within the organisation.

For more detailed information on any of the information contained in this report please visit the Council's [Performance](#) pages.

How to Use



The Annual Performance Report consists of four sections:

Summary: This gives an overview of all our performance and then a high level summary of our performance for each of our desired outcomes.

Milestones: This gives a more detailed summary of the milestones we set out to achieve for the year, and whether we achieved them or not.

Performance Indicators: This gives a summary of performance against our indicators for each quarter of the year.

Comparison Against Others: This gives an overview of how we compare against other Scottish Local Authorities using the most recent data available.

We have used two icons throughout the document to allow you to navigate quickly between the summary and more detailed information:





If you click on the magnifying glass icon you will be taken to more detail about this area.






If you click on the home icon you will be taken back to the higher level summary.

Throughout the document we use the following colours to represent our view on our performance:




Milestones

	Achieved
	Not Achieved

Performance Indicators

	There has been a notable improvement, or the data indicates a particularly positive position
	There has been no significant change since the previous review, and/or progress is satisfactory or as expected
	There has been a notable reduction in performance, or the data suggests a position that we will be focusing on for improvement
<i>i</i>	The indicator shows data for information purposes only

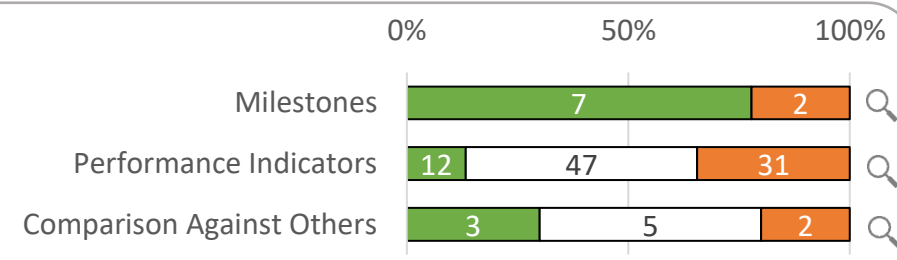
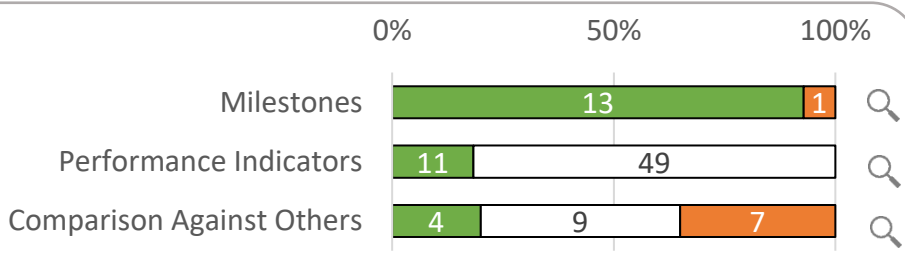
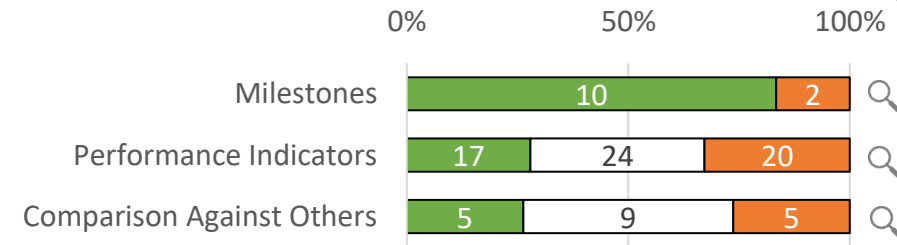
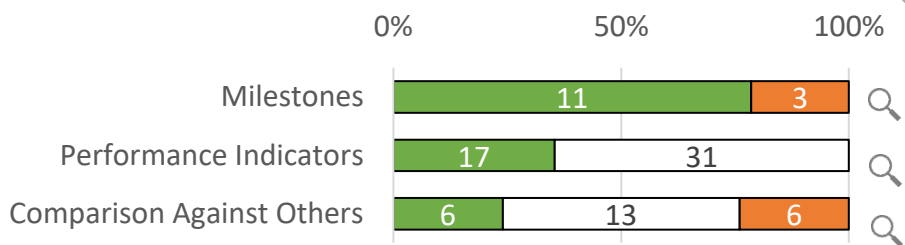
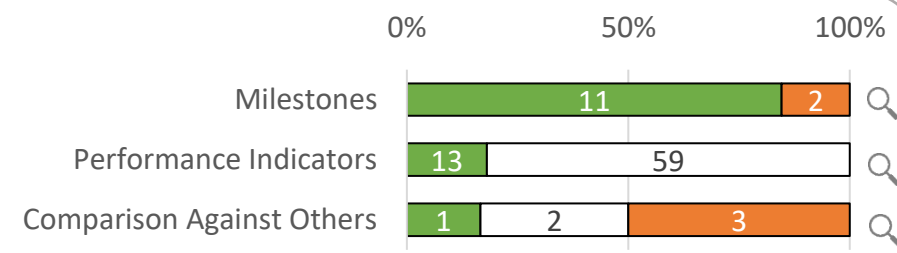
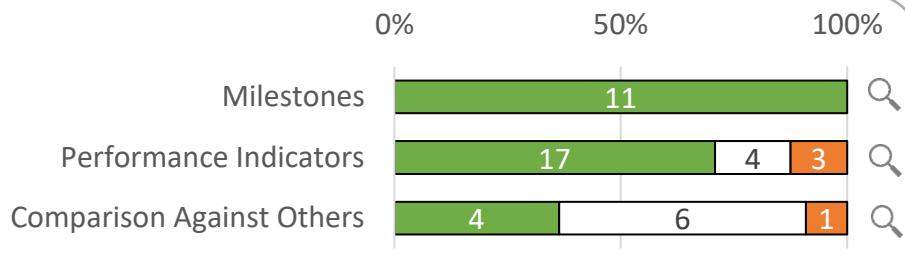
Comparison Against Others

	Positive
	Similar to others
	Focus for Consideration

Summary



A summary of performance against each outcome is shown by milestones achieved, performance Indicators and comparison against other Local Authorities in Scotland. Green indicates completion of a milestone, or a particularly positive position. White indicates that performance is on-track and/or satisfactory. Orange indicates areas that have been challenging or, in the case of comparisons against others, areas where it's worthwhile considering why we differ from others..



CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

We tackle climate change and we value, protect and enhance our local environment and nature, so that the Scottish Borders can be enjoyed now and by future generations



Summary of 2022-23 Performance, and how we compare against other Local Authorities



Milestones

Page 247

All Milestones set out for being achieved this year have been met. This has included positive progress on:

- Increasing numbers of allotments
- Extreme weather assessments of critical infrastructure
- Closer examination and increased understanding of our carbon emissions
- Creation of plans to improve sustainability of local energy systems
- Piloting a schools resource pack to promote sustainability



Performance Indicators

The recycling rate of household waste continues to be high and increasing, and less than half a percent of waste is going to landfill. This positive position is due to the closure of the Council's landfill in 2019, and a new contract that extracts as much recyclates as possible from the waste before it is treated in an energy from waste plant.

Electricity and Gas consumption has not decreased and has seen some increases from last year. This is due to colder weather conditions, and increased ventilation requirements due to Covid.



Comparison with Others

We have cleaner streets than authorities similar to us, and Scotland's average.

Our household recycling rate is higher than authorities similar to us and Scotland's average.

The current recording of costs indicates that the cost of maintaining our Parks & Open Spaces appears higher than authorities similar to us, and Scotland's average – we need to do further work to understand the reasons for this. It could be due to different allocation of costs between authorities.

We are similar to the Scottish average for our carbon emissions and although we are lower than authorities similar to us, we have a long way to go to achieve Net Zero by 2045.



FULLFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

From child to adult, everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to high quality education and the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential



Summary of 2022-23 Performance



Milestones

Page 249

The majority of milestones set out to be achieved this year were met, including:
Identifying Nurture Bases to support primary school children
Supporting the development of digital skills and learning in schools and communities
Delivering 'Get into Summer 2022' to provide access to food, childcare and activities to children from low income families over the holidays

An Equity Strategy was developed to target action and resource to address inequalities in attainment and achievement.

The [Education Improvement Plan](#) 2022-23 also sets out priorities for raising attainment levels.



Milestones

Two activities were delayed but will be carried out in 23/24:

- Embarking on a programme of curriculum reform incorporating recommendations from the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
- Completing an engagement strategy which enables young people to experience their rights set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

One activity is no longer being progressed as planned – the delivery of a Parent Portal to improve digital access. This is because upon review it was decided that it would not realise the desired benefits for SBC.



Performance Indicators

Attendance at both primary and secondary schools has been predominantly positive for the year. With the exception of quarter 3 which showed a slight reduction attendance levels remained above 93% for primary and 89% for secondary over the year.

We are pleased with the numbers of modern apprentices that we are employing.

The number of exclusions across primary and secondary schools are within usual boundaries.



FULLFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

From child to adult, everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to high quality education and the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential



How we compare against other Local Authorities



Early Years & Primary School

Page 249

The percentage of funded early years provision that is graded good/better is higher than the average of authorities similar to us, and the Scottish average.

It costs us less to deliver each pre-school education place than the average of authorities similar to us, and the Scottish average.

Our literacy attainment gap is larger than authorities similar to us, and all authorities in Scotland.

Our numeracy attainment gap larger than the authorities similar to us, and all authorities in Scotland.



Secondary School

The cost per secondary school pupil lower than the average of authorities similar to us, but similar to the Scottish average.

Our average attainment and school attendance is similar to the average of authorities similar to us, and Scotland.

The attendance rate for looked after children is a lower than the average for Scotland and authorities similar to us.

We have significantly lower exclusion rates than both the average of authorities similar to us, and Scotland.

We have good participation rates.



Achievement & Satisfaction

The achievement of our pupils from deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 5 is significantly lower than the average for authorities similar to us and Scotland.

The achievement of our pupils from deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at Level 6 is a little higher than the average for authorities similar to us, and a little lower than the Scottish average.

Compared to our family group average we have a lower average total tariff for SIMD quintile 1, but higher average total tariffs for SIMD quintiles 2 and 5.

We have a lower percentage of adults satisfied with local schools than the average of authorities similar to us and Scotland.



STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Built upon strong and effective physical and digital connections and infrastructure, the benefits of a productive and sustainable economy are widely shared, enabling us to fulfil our potential in the Scottish Borders and attract others to live, work and visit



Summary of 2022-23 Performance



Milestones - Infrastructure

Page 250

All but one of the infrastructure-related Milestones set out for being achieved this year have been met. These have included:

- Opening Reston Railway Station
- Progressing the feasibility study for the Borders Railway Extension
- Commencing a refresh of the Scottish Borders Local Access & Transport Strategy
- Supporting the rollout of superfast broadband within the region

The one Milestone that wasn't met was the action to work with the UK Government to support the roll out of the Rural Exchange Network of 4G in the Scottish Borders. This project has now moved into the Borderlands Digital Programme.



Milestones - Economy

All economy Milestones were achieved, including:

- Supporting international, national and regional events including:
 - Borders Book Festival
 - Enduro World Series
 - Jim Clark Rally
 - Melrose Rugby 7s
- Progressing Borderland Inclusive Growth Deals including the Mountain Biking Innovation Centre in Innerleithen and new business space in Coldstream
- Working with communities and businesses to drive and target investment in town centres and healthy local economies
- Progressing the Destination Tweed project



Performance Indicators

The majority of indicators have been progressing at a satisfactory level.

In quarter 4 there was a significant reduction in the time to process housing benefit change events following automation of housing benefit change event recording.

In quarter 4 there was a 2.8% increase in the working age population employment rate. This resulted in an employment rate of 79.4% - the highest it's been all year.



STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Built upon strong and effective physical and digital connections and infrastructure, the benefits of a productive and sustainable economy are widely shared, enabling us to fulfil our potential in the Scottish Borders and attract others to live, work and visit



How we compare against other Local Authorities



Service Delivery

Page 251

It costs us significantly less to deliver our Trading Standards and Environmental Health service than the average for authorities similar to us, and the Scottish average.

We have a significantly higher number of Class A and Unclassified roads that should be considered for maintenance compared to other local authorities similar to us, and the Scottish average.

Our cost of planning & building standards per planning application is higher than authorities similar to us and the Scottish average, but we have a significantly lower average time to complete a planning application.



Economic Development

We are investing less in our Economic Development & Tourism than most authorities in our family group, and the Scottish average.

We have a significantly higher percentage of land immediately available for employment purposes.

We have a much lower procurement spend on local enterprises than both authorities similar to us and the Scottish average.



Economy Indicators

We have a lower Gross Value Added per capita, and a higher proportion of people earning less than the living wage than the average for authorities similar to us and Scotland. This is in large part due to the nature of our high concentration of agriculture and tourism industry.

The claimant count is similar to the Scottish average and the average of our authorities similar to us.

The percentage of unemployed people assisted into working is lower than our family group and Scotland, but the gap has narrowed compared to previous years.



EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

The Scottish Borders has thriving, inclusive communities where people support each other and take responsibility for their local area



Summary of 2022-23 Performance, and how we compare against other Local Authorities



Milestones

Page 252

The majority of milestones have been achieved. Activity has included:

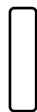
- Progressing investment in play areas and outdoor community spaces
- Delivering the Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan
- Continuing to work with the Area Partnerships and progress Place Making across communities

The review of Area Partnerships has been moved into 2023/24

A different approach to community-led place plans has meant that we didn't complete 15 plans in 2022/23, but have started engagement with a much larger number of communities



Performance Indicators



Community funding, participation requests and asset transfers have proceeded at a satisfactory rate.



We have awarded over £400k of funds from the Neighbourhood Small Schemes Fund.



We have over 7000 people registered for SB Alert.



We have 57 active community resilience plans, and are progressing a further three.



Comparison with Others



Our cost per library visit is similar to most of the authorities similar to us, but higher than the Scottish average. We have the second lowest library satisfaction of all Councils in Scotland.



The cost per visit to Museums and Galleries is at the high end of authorities similar to us and all Councils in Scotland. We have the second lowest satisfaction of all Councils in Scotland.



The cost per attendance at Sports facilities is significantly lower than authorities similar to us and the majority of Scottish Councils, and we have similar satisfaction rates to others.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life



Summary of 2022-23 Performance



Milestones

Page 253

The majority of milestones were completed as planned, with some examples being:

- Reviewing the governance and accountability for the Public Protection Services
- Working to improve recruitment and retention into Social Care and Social Work
- Continuing to develop capital plans for the provision of facilities that enable people to be supported in a homely setting

Two actions were not completed and have been moved into 2023-24:

- Developing a Council Commissioning Framework which includes Social Care, CGI and Live Borders
- Reviewing the Sports and Cultural Strategies for the Scottish Borders



Performance Indicators



There have been a positive number of referrals to the Mediation Services that concluded with an agreement being reached.



There are a lower number of reported Anti Social Behaviour incidents than last year.



There are a lower number of Group 1-5 recorded crimes and offences than last year



We have discussed 133 High Risk domestic abuse cases at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences.



Performance Indicators



We have a higher number of Looked After Children, and Looked After Children in residential placements than we would like.



There continues to be a high number of bed days associated with delayed discharges in residents aged 75+



There have been a high number of referrals to the Domestic Abuse Services.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life



How we compare against other Local Authorities



Funding & Environmental Health

Page 254

We have a higher percentage of Crisis Grant decisions concluded within one day than the average of authorities similar to us and the Scottish average.

We have spent significantly less of our Scottish Welfare Fund And Discretionary Housing Payments funding than authorities similar to us and the Scottish average. However, the actual spend has increased year on year.

The cost of running our Environmental Health Service is significantly lower than the average for authorities similar to us, and a little lower than the Scottish average.



Adult Social Care



We have a lower rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days than most of the authorities similar to us, and the Scottish average.



People over 75 spend significantly longer waiting to be discharged from hospital than the most authorities similar to us most Scottish authorities.



We have a higher percentage of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs who are receiving personal care at home than most authorities similar to us, and the Scottish average.



Adult Social Care



We have a lower satisfaction rate than authorities similar to us and the Scottish average for:

- Adults supported at home who agree their support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life
- Adults supported at home who agree they are supported to live as independently as possible
- Adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their support was provided



WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES


Scottish Borders Council will be a well-run and efficient organisation. We will have well informed, timely and effective decision making, which is evidence led and focussed on the needs of customers and communities, and we will have a positive open culture




Summary of 2022-23 Performance, and how we compare against other Local Authorities





Milestones

 The majority of the milestones set out to be achieved this year have been met. This has included positive progress on:


- Review and change implementation following Covid-19
- Council Plan Delivery
- Digital Strategy and Digital Skills
- Career Pathway development
- Exploring opportunities to support local suppliers


 A review of all of SBC's Partnership working did not take place, but is still planned to take place in the future.



 Progress was made on linking competencies and frameworks into the appraisal progress. Work on all staff knowing and understanding SBC's vision and values has started and will continue into future years.






Performance Indicators


 The time taken to respond to complaints is still much higher than we would like it to be.

 We are continuing not to complete all our FOI requests on time.

 We taking longer than we would like to add new properties to our Council Tax Valuation List.



 Low absence rates in the first half of the year have started to increase in the second half of the year.


 Our time taken to process planning applications during the first half of the year is positive – figures for the second half of the year will be published in 23/24.


 We have a Council Tax in-year collection level of over 96%.




Comparison with Others

 Our proportional expenditure on support services is the higher than the average for authorities similar to us, and Scotland.

 We have a smaller gender pay gap than the average of authorities similar to us, and are in-line with the Scottish average.

 We have a higher percentage of invoices sampled paid within 90 days than the average of authorities similar to us and the Scottish average.

 A significantly lower percentage of our buildings are in satisfactory condition than the average of authorities similar to us and Scotland.





SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Milestones Summary 2022/23

Page 256



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our potential



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant communities



Good health and wellbeing



Working together improving lives



Introduction

Scottish Borders Council published its 2022/3 Council Plan that set out the Council's ambitions and priorities for the year ahead. It outlined what the Council wanted to achieve, and how it intended to do this.

A number of Key Milestones were outlined for 2022/23 that the Council aimed to achieve. This report summarises all the milestones that were set out for 2022/23, and whether they were achieved or not. The report is structured into the 6 themes of the Council Plan.


More detailed progress on the delivery of all of the milestones can be found in the Council's Quarterly Performance Reports which are available on the Council's [Performance](#) webpages.

Page 25

Example of Quarterly Report on Milestones

FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

PRIORITY: Empower communities and schools to deliver a high quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children and families



<p>Deliver 'Get into Summer 2022' for children and families of low income households which provides coordinated access to food, childcare and activities during the holidays</p> <p>902 children participated and were supported by 425 parents</p> <p>1526 meals were provided to both children and adults</p> <p>Organised trips included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">CinemaSoft playBeach <p>71 days of learning and play took place</p> <p>All families had one point of contact throughout the summer</p> <p>Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A service which meets the diverse needs of our people and reduces inequalitiesIncreased participation and engagement of children, young people, families, communities and other key stakeholdersEffective mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people	<p>Engagement with parents and carers to gather information leading to improved service delivery and a phased plan for extended childcare</p> <p>Statutory Parental Consultation undertaken. Findings will help inform SBCC's next Early Learning and Childcare Plan</p> <p>Survey undertaken with nursery parents, staff & catering staff about the lunchtime experience</p> <p>Results being followed up but a menu change has already been implemented as a result of the feedback</p> <p>Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A service which meets the diverse needs of our people and reduces inequalitiesIncreased participation and engagement of children, young people, families, communities and other key stakeholders	<p>Completion of new pathway to ensure appropriate Mental Health Services and supports are in place</p> <p>Implementation of Training programme for practitioners working with children and young people.</p> <p>This will up-skill workers to support mental health and wellbeing needs</p> <p>Ongoing development of an App for children and young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Allow awareness of what is available in their area <p>Desired Outcomes linked to this Milestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Effective mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people
--	---	---

CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

We tackle climate change and we value, protect and enhance our local environment and nature, so that the Scottish Borders can be enjoyed now and by future generations



Indicator	Quarter	Expected Progress Made
Increase allotment creation and participation through year one of 'Cultivating Communities' (the Scottish Borders Community Food Growing Strategy)	Q1	✓
Begin development of Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) that sets out how we will decarbonise building across the region	Q1	✓
Pilot Schools Resource Pack for children and young people that promotes sustainability, linked to the Curriculum for Excellence	Q1	✓
Promote action on Net Zero by 2045 through proactive engagement with communities as part of PlaceMaking	Q2	✓
Commence an extreme weather assessment of key coastal infrastructure and bridges	Q3	✓
Commence review of the Council's greenspace maintenance operations to identify opportunities for improved environmental management	Q3	✓
Update and improve our assessment of carbon emissions impacts across our organisation and the Scottish Borders	Q4	✓
Increase the number of Council Fleet all electric vehicles by 65% and the number of fleet charging points by at least 175%	Q4	✓
Commence development of an improved waste service through behaviour change, to reduce waste, and increase recycling	Q4	✓
Create a Scottish Borders Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) through the Borderlands Energy Master Plan to develop robust, affordable and sustainable local energy systems	Q4	✓
Support a regional approach to land use management which delivers wider environmental goals through South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot and Borderlands Natural Capital Project	Q4	✓



FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

From child to adult, everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to high quality education and the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential



Indicator	Quarter	Expected Progress Made
Respond to the opportunities of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, targeting resources where the poverty related attainment gap is greatest to deliver improved attainment in literacy and numeracy	Q1	✓
Deliver evidence based investment in high quality learning environments to support eligible families with 2 year olds, and future roll out of provision across all early years children	Q1	✓
Complete work with education partners and employers to develop employability pathways to enable young people to move successfully from education to employment	Q1	✓
Deliver 'Get into Summer 2022' for children and families of low income households which provides co-ordinated access to food, childcare and activities during the holidays	Q2	✓
Engagement with parents and carers to gather information leading to improved service delivery and a phased plan for extended childcare	Q2	✓
Completion of new pathway to ensure appropriate Mental Health Services and supports are in place	Q2	✓
Embark on a programme of curriculum reform incorporating National and International (Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development – OECD) recommendations	Q3	✗ Moved to 23/24 Council Plan
Introduction of Parent Portal to improve digital customer access to services and information	Q3	✗ Not going to realise benefits for SBC
Develop a service directory which outlines available support for children and young people, families and professionals	Q3	✓



FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

From child to adult, everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to high quality education and the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential



Indicator	Quarter	Expected Progress Made
Identify 'Nurture Bases' in each locality to support primary school aged children with social and emotional difficulties	Q4	✓
Implement an Equity Strategy to target action and resource to address inequalities in attainment and achievement	Q4	✓
Complete an Engagement strategy which will focus on gathering and acting upon the views of children and young people and which enables young people to experience their rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)	Q4	✗ Moved to 23/24 Council Plan
Support development of digital skills and learning in our schools and our communities (including the Inspire Academy)	Q4	✓
Develop an action plan based upon agreed Health and Wellbeing census outcomes	Q4	✓

Page 200



STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Built upon strong and effective physical and digital connections and infrastructure, the benefits of a productive and sustainable economy are widely shared, enabling us to fulfil our potential in the Scottish Borders and attract others to live, work and visit



Indicator	Quarter	Expected Progress Made
Deliver a programme of support for international, national and regional events	Q1	✓
Progress Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal projects which support the visitor economy, including the Mountain Biking Innovation Centre in Innerleithen	Q1	✓
Work with communities and businesses, as part of Place-Making, to drive and target investment in town centres and create healthy local economies	Q1	✓
Progress the feasibility study for the Borders Railway Extension project as part of the Borderlands Deal	Q1	✓
Open and promote the benefits of a new Railway Station at Reston	Q1	✓
Commence refresh of the Scottish Borders Local Access and Transport Strategy, focusing on affordable and accessible public transport and a network that favours more walking, cycling and wheeling	Q2	✓
Support the Scottish Government in its roll out of the R100 Superfast Broadband project in the Scottish Borders	Q2	✓
Work with the UK Government to support the roll out of the Rural Exchange Network of 4G in the Scottish Borders	Q2	✗ Now tied to the Borderlands Digital Programme
Progress the Destination Tweed project as part of the Borderlands Deal	Q2	✓
Commence delivery of a Local Employability Plan to ensure we support local employment opportunities	Q3	✓



STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Built upon strong and effective physical and digital connections and infrastructure, the benefits of a productive and sustainable economy are widely shared, enabling us to fulfil our potential in the Scottish Borders and attract others to live, work and visit



Indicator	Quarter	Expected Progress Made
Progress delivery of the Borders Innovation Park at Tweedbank under the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal	Q4	✓
Begin delivery of new business space at Coldstream as part of the Borderlands Deal	Q4	✓
Develop a South of Scotland Inward Investment Strategy with SOSE	Q4	✓
Strengthen opportunities to support local supply chains and 'Community Wealth Building'	Q4	✓



EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

The Scottish Borders has thriving, inclusive communities where people support each other and take responsibility for their local area



Indicator	Quarter	Expected Progress Made
Working with Area Partnerships, agreement of a forward programme of place making across communities in the 5 localities	Q1	✓
Strengthen the role of Area Partnerships in developing and overseeing place making planning and delivery through a series of facilitated workshops	Q1	✓
Commence the development of a modern Community Engagement Strategy	Q1	✓
Commence the development of community-led Place Plans including the 4 Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal target towns of Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Jedburgh	Q2	✓
With Key Partners and Area Partnerships, develop and agree a programme of engagement with both service users and communities to shape proposals over the future design of services in line with needs, expectations, demand and sustainability	Q2	✓
Work with our Community Planning partners to refresh our Community Planning Arrangements – including the Community Plan and Locality Plans rooted in community-led place plans	Q2	✓
Commence work with people to shape a sustainable future for land and in buildings in their communities	Q3	✓
Build on the Locality and Hub model developed in response to the pandemic to provide practical, joined-up support to communities	Q4	✓
Completion of at least 15 community-led Place Plans across the Borders communities (including the 4 target Borderlands communities) in line with a programme agreed with Area Partnerships	Q4	✗ Different approach being taken
Completion of the Review of Area Partnerships	Q4	✗ Moved to 23/24 Council Plan
Continue to develop an approach to budgeting which engages our communities (Participatory Budgeting)	Q4	✓
Progress our investment plan in play areas and outdoor community spaces	Q4	✓
Deliver Scottish Borders Council's Anti-poverty Strategy Action Plan	Q4	✓



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life



Indicator	Quarter	Expected Progress Made
Commissioning Services will meet service users' needs by utilising existing and new funding to implement projects to support sustainability in care	Q1	✓
Delivery of robust Health Protection functions to control outbreaks of communicable disease	Q1	✓
Review of governance and accountability for Public Protection Services (1 Year on)	Q2	✓
Improve recruitment and retention into Social Care and Social Work and collaborate with Health partners to develop the Integrated Workforce Plan 2022/25	Q2	✓
Increase the use of Technology Enabled Care across Social Care	Q2	✓
Continue to develop capital plans for the provision of facilities that enable people to be supported in a homely setting	Q3	✓
Fully utilise the technology that is available to facilitate mobile working, integrated working and the sharing of data across the Partnership	Q3	✓
Contribute to the joint needs assessments for all Integration Joint Board (IJB) delegated services to inform the priorities of the new IJB Strategic plan	Q3	✓
Develop a Council Commissioning Framework, which includes Social Care, CGI and Live Borders	Q3	✗ Moved to Q4



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life



Indicator	Quarter	Expected Progress Made
Review of the Sports and Cultural Strategies for the Scottish Borders	Q4	✗ Now part of a wider review for 23/24
Develop and deliver the projects linked to the current Health And Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan and the projects delivered via the Social Work Review	Q4	✓
Deliver the action plan to narrow Health Inequalities	Q4	✓
Develop a Council Commissioning Framework, which includes Social Care, CGI and Live Borders	Q4	✗ Moved to 23/24 Council Plan



WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

Scottish Borders Council will be a well-run and efficient organisation. We will have well informed, timely and effective decision making, which is evidence led and focussed on the needs of customers and communities, and we will have a positive open culture



Indicator	Quarter	Expected Progress Made
Align SBC's Programme of Transformation (Fit For 2024) with Council Plan themes and priorities to maximise the impact of investment in change	Q1	✓
Review, implement and monitor delivery of Covid-19 Recovery Plan and integrate within the Council Plan	Q1	✓
Build on the lessons learned from Covid-19 to develop robust plans for business continuity and preparedness	Q2	✓
Understand and improve performance across SBC to develop a service improvement culture that drives excellence, transparency and improvement towards delivery of our Council Plan	Q2	✓
Develop and implement career pathways from entry to director level across SBC, incorporating clear training plans and a digital skills programme	Q3	✓
Review and enhance the way SBC buys services from other organisations, providers and partners to ensure best value and quality for customers , while exploring opportunities to support local suppliers	Q3	✓
Review of all SBC's Partnership working to ensure effectiveness, optimal use of shared resources and collective clarity on the outcomes most important for the people of the Scottish Borders	Q4	✗ To take place in the future
Demonstrate clear benefits from SBC's Digital Strategy, focusing on best customer experience, including: improved customer access to joined up services and information, simplified processes, and mobile solutions for frontline services	Q4	✓
Ensure all staff know and understand SBC's vision and values within the Council Plan, and the Competency and Behaviours Frameworks, as part of annual appraisal	Q4	✗ Partly completed





SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Performance Indicator Summary 2022/23

Page 267



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our potential



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant communities



Good health and wellbeing



Working together improving lives

Introduction






Scottish Borders Council maintains a number of public performance indicators to demonstrate its performance. This report presents the Council's progress against the identified public performance indicators for the year. The report is structured into the 6 themes of the Council Plan.

For each theme, detail is provided on each performance indicator.

For more detailed information on any of the information contained in this report please visit the Council's [Performance](#) pages.

Performance Indicators Key

Page 268

	Positive	There has been a notable improvement, or the data indicates a particularly positive position
	Neutral	There has been no significant change since the previous review, and/or progress is satisfactory or as expected
	Focus for Improvement	There has been a notable reduction in performance, or the data suggests a position that we will be focusing on for improvement
<i>i</i>	Information Only	The indicator shows data for information purposes only

Each Performance Indicator has been given a status bar so that the performance for each quarter of the year can be seen.



CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

We tackle climate change and we value, protect and enhance our local environment and nature, so that the Scottish Borders can be enjoyed now and by future generations



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Annual Household Recycling Rate		55.75%	55.78%	56.88%	57.33%
Annual Household Waste Landfilled Rate		0.35%	0.39%	0.43%	0.45%
Annual Household Waste to Other Treatment		43.91%	43.83%	42.69%	42.23%
Annual Average Community Recycling Centre Recycling Rate		76.96%	77.83%	78.80%	80.79%
Electricity Consumption (kWh)		1,843,041	1,387,697	2,630,328	2,954,048
Gas Consumption (kWh)		2,984,008	1,391,493	5,383,398	6,114,793



FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

From child to adult, everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to high quality education and the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
What percentage of primary school pupils attend school?		93.17%	94.79%	91.97%	93.24%
What percentage of secondary school pupils attend school?		89.41%	90.55%	87.08%	89.59%
What percentage of primary and secondary school pupils attend school?		91.30%	92.70%	89.10%	91.40%
Number of Exclusion Incidents – Primary Schools		4	2	3	3
How many primary school pupils were excluded?		3	2	3	3
Number of Exclusion Incidents - Secondary Schools		19	20	29	42
How many secondary school pupils were excluded?		19	19	29	39
Number of Exclusion Incidents – Primary and Secondary Schools		23	22	3	45
How many primary and secondary school pupils were excluded?		22	21	32	42
Number of Schools/Nurseries inspected per Quarter	<i>i</i>	0	0	0	1
New Modern Apprentices employed by SBC		7	28	29	29
Current Modern Apprentices employed within SBC		57	61	47	35
Modern Apprentices securing SBC employment after apprenticeship Cumulative Year to Date		3	19	24	24



STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Built upon strong and effective physical and digital connections and infrastructure, the benefits of a productive and sustainable economy are widely shared, enabling us to fulfil our potential in the Scottish Borders and attract others to live, work and visit



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
RAG status is "Green"		13	11	11	11
RAG status is "Amber"		4	6	6	6
RAG status is "Red"		0	0	0	0
Working age population (16 - 64) employment rate*		74.4%	74.4%	76.6%	79.4%
Working age population (16 - 64) Claimant Count (including Universal Credit and JSA)		3.03%	2.93%	2.93%	3.00%
Working age population (18 - 24) Claimant Count (including Universal Credit and JSA)		4.13%	4.33%	4.13%	4.40%
Financial Inclusion - Number of People referred in the quarter		275	261	399	530
Financial Inclusion - Monetary Gain for cases closed in the quarter		£816.2k	£871.3k	£1,151m	£1,108m
Financial Inclusion - Cumulative Monetary Gain for cases closed in the year to date		£816.2k	£1.687m	£2,838m	£3,946m
Housing Benefit - New Claims (Avg No. of Days to process)		19.64	19.84	18.41	17.48
Housing Benefit - Change Events (Avg No. of Days to process)		6.29	8.73	7.83	2.61
Total number of new Business Start-Ups (Business Gateway)		n/a	56	8	6
Number of clients attending start-up workshops/seminars (Business Gateway)		110	88	Information Delayed	Information Delayed
Occupancy Rates of Industrial and Commercial Units		90%	89%	89%	88%
Total Number of Contracts Awarded with Community Benefit Clauses (CBC) included only ** Reported Q2 & Q4		Not Reported in Quarter	10	Not Reported in Quarter	22
Number of new Employment and Skills opportunities delivered as a result of Community Benefit Clauses (CBC) ** Reported Q2 & Q4		Not Reported in Quarter	23	Not Reported in Quarter	26

* Please Note that there is a lag of one Quarter for data provided for employment rates

Key: ● Positive ○ Neutral ● Focus for Improvement ⓘ Information only



EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

The Scottish Borders has thriving, inclusive communities where people support each other and take responsibility for their local area



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Asset Transfers - Number of Requests Received		0	1	0	0
Asset Transfers - Number of Requests Agreed		0	0	0	1
Asset Transfers - Number of Requests Refused		0	0	0	0
Participation Requests - Number of Requests Received		1	0	0	0
Participation Requests - Number of Requests Agreed		0	1	0	0
Participation Requests - Number of Requests Refused		0	0	0	0
The Number of people carrying out volunteer work with SBC		285	268	500	331
Community Funding - Total Scottish Borders		£137K	£42k	£176k	£102K
Community Funding - Berwickshire		£67K	£9.5k	£47k	£24.1K
Community Funding - Cheviot		£35.9K	£2.5k	£14k	£20.6K
Community Funding - Eildon		£4.6K	£30k	£59.5k	£24.8K
Community Funding - Teviot & Liddesdale		£6.8K	£0	£29.6k	£23.1K
Community Funding - Tweeddale		£21.8K	£0	£25.6k	£9K
Community Funding - Borderswide		£0	£0	£0	£0
Neighbourhood Small Schemes Fund – Total Value of funds awarded (cumulative)		£49.4k	£202.1k	£337.1k	£400.8k
SB Alert - No. of people registered		6924	6935	6992	7073
No. of Active community resilience plans (cumulative)		54	45	57	57
No. of Progressing community resilience plans (cumulative)		9	13	3	3

Key: ● Positive ○ Neutral ● Focus for Improvement ⓘ Information only



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Looked After Children (aged 12+) in family-based placements compared to those in residential placements		66%	65%	64%	64%
Looked After Children (All ages) in family-based placements compared to those in residential placements		80%	75%	75%	74%
Number of Looked After Children (LAC)		198	195	199	205
Number of Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) held about a child	<i>i</i>	135	126	129	98
Number of children on Child Protection Register	<i>i</i>	39	48	36	35
Number of Concerns		62	77	50	54
Number of Investigations		39	55	42	43
Additional homes provided affordable to people in the Borders, based on our wages?		7	32	16	59
Bed days associated with delayed discharges in residents aged 75+; rate per 1,000 population		325	339	370	330
Number of people killed on Border Roads	<i>i</i>	2	1	2	5
Number of people seriously injured on Border Roads	<i>i</i>	14	9	16	13

Page 73



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of Referrals To Domestic Abuse Services (Cumulative)		98	186	277	392
Number of reported incidents of domestic abuse (cumulative)		328	610	896	Published later in year
Number of High Risk domestic abuse cases discussed at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) (cumulative)		41	74	97	133
The percentage of referrals into the Mediation Service that were progressed and agreement was reached (cumulative)		100%	100%	100%	75%
The number of referrals into the Mediation Service (Cumulative)		7	14	16	18
The number of reported Anti Social Behaviour Incidents (Cumulative)		1,235	2,555	3470	Published later in year
Number of Anti Social Behaviour Early Interventions		212	361	496	734
Number monitored for Anti Social Behaviour		320	682	959	1271
Number of Group 1-5 recorded crimes and offences (cumulative)		918	1824	2630	Published later in year



WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

Scottish Borders Council will be a well-run and efficient organisation. We will have well informed, timely and effective decision making, which is evidence led and focussed on the needs of customers and communities, and we will have a positive open culture



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Av.time (wks) taken to process all planning apps - Maj Dev. - ADJUSTED (cumulative)		0	0	Data for Q1 & Q2 provided in Q3 Data for Q3 & Q4 provided in Q1	
Av.time (wks) taken to process all planning apps - Local Dev (non-householder) - ADJUSTED (cumulative)		7.7	8.7		
Av.time (wks) taken to process all planning apps - Local Dev (householder) - ADJUSTED (cumulative)		6.9	6.8		
Number of Planning Applications Received	<i>i</i>	342	102	280	362
Council Tax – In Year Collection Level		32.04%	56.97%	81.59%	96.57%
Capital Receipts Generated (cumulative)		£125k	£134k	£401k	Information Delayed
Properties surplus to requirements		16	17	17	Information Delayed
Properties actively being marketed		12	11	7	Information Delayed
Properties progressed to "under offer"		13	11	17	Information Delayed
Average times: the average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage one		4.87	5.42	6.3	7.66
Performance against timescales: the number of complaints closed at stage one within 5 working days as percentage of total number of stage one complaints		86.29%	78.95%	72.00%	71.19%
Average times: the average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage two		19.4	20.81	25.3	38.56
Performance against timescales: the number of complaints closed at stage two within 20 working days as percentage of total number of stage two complaints		56%	76.19%	33%	6.25%

Key: ● Positive ○ Neutral ● Focus for Improvement *i* Information only



WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

Scottish Borders Council will be a well-run and efficient organisation. We will have well informed, timely and effective decision making, which is evidence led and focussed on the needs of customers and communities, and we will have a positive open culture



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Average times: the average time in working days to respond to complaints after escalation		19.67	19.57	40.75	30.23
Performance against timescales: the number of escalated complaints closed within 20 working days as a percentage of total number of escalated stage two complaints		83.33%	71.43%	25.00%	30.77%
Number of Complaints Closed	<i>i</i>	73	215	147	211
FOI Requests Received	<i>i</i>	319	261	337	416
Percentage of FOI Requests Completed on Time		76%	91%	90%	88%
Number of Facebook Engagements		21.7k	35.8k	1.2m	1.9m
Number of Twitter Engagements		7.8k	5.5k	145.3k	183.6k
Council Tax Valuation List-Time taken to add new properties to the List		91%	85%	88%	85%
Valuation Roll (Non Domestic)-Time taken to amend the valuation roll to reflect new, altered or demolished properties		89%	64%	57%	47%
SBC Absence Rate – Staff		5.83%	5.05%	6.06%	6.29%
SBC Absence Rate – Teaching Staff		3.01%	2.11%	4.91%	4.72%



WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

Scottish Borders Council will be a well-run and efficient organisation. We will have well informed, timely and effective decision making, which is evidence led and focussed on the needs of customers and communities, and we will have a positive open culture



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Staff Absence Rate (overall)		5.14%	4.34%	5.78%	5.91%
Percentage of Invoices paid within 30 days		93%	93%	95%	94%
**Voice calls Answered		n/a	n/a	24.4k	Information Delayed

** Please note that this PI is place of the previous Customer Contact PIs

Key: ● Positive ○ Neutral ● Focus for Improvement ⓘ Information only





SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Comparison Against Others 2022/23

Page 278



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our potential



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant communities



Good health and wellbeing



Working together improving lives

Introduction



The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) is a high-level benchmarking tool designed to support senior management teams and elected members to ask questions about key council services.

It reflects a commitment by The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers in Scotland (SOLACE Scotland) and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) to develop better measurement and comparable data as a catalyst for improving services, targeting resources to areas of greatest impact and enhancing public accountability.

The framework provides high-level 'can openers' which are designed to focus questions on why variations in cost and performance are occurring between similar councils. They do not supply the answers. That happens as councils engage with each other to 'drill down' and explore why these variations are happening.

The LGBF helps councils compare their performance against a suite of efficiency, output and outcome indicators that cover all areas of local government activity. The framework now has 8 years of data. Publication of the LGBF forms part of each council's statutory requirements for public performance reporting, replacing the previous SPI regime. Please be aware that the data available is not always from the most recent financial year. The year that data relates to is marked on each indicator.

Further detail on trends over time and comparisons with other authorities can be found at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://www.improvementservice.org.uk)

Councils are arranged in 'family groups', so that we are comparing councils that are similar in terms of the type of population that they serve (e.g. relative deprivation and affluence) and the type of area in which they serve them (e.g. urban, semi-rural, rural). The point of comparing like with like is that this is more likely to lead to useful learning and improvement.

Throughout the document we use the following colours to represent our view on our performance:

●	Positive
○	Similar to others
●	Focus for Consideration

For each indicator the numerical value is then shown for Scottish Borders Council (SBC), our family group, and Scotland as a whole. The arrows against the family group and Scotland indicate whether these values are higher, lower or similar to Scottish Borders Council.

Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
○	80.3%	↑ 86.5%	↔ 81.0%

CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

We tackle climate change and we value, protect and enhance our local environment and nature, so that the Scottish Borders can be enjoyed now and by future generations



Waste & Recycling	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Net cost of waste collection per premise	2021/22	●	£54.1	↑ £69.58	↑ £70.08
Net cost of waste disposal per premise	2021/22	○	£112.75	↑ £131.69	↓ £100.23
% of total household waste arising that is recycled	2021/22	●	54.8%	↓ 35.9%	↓ 42.7%
% of adults satisfied with refuse collection	2018/21	○	79.9	↑ 82.9%	↓ 75.3%

Page 280

Street Cleaning	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population	2021/22	●	£10791	↑ £12927	↑ £14848
Street Cleanliness Score	2021/22	●	94.8%	↓ 92.2%	↓ 89.7%
% of adults satisfied with street cleaning	2018/21	○	61%	↑ 66%	↔ 60%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](#)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

We tackle climate change and we value, protect and enhance our local environment and nature, so that the Scottish Borders can be enjoyed now and by future generations



Parks & Open Spaces	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	2021/22	●	£25500	↓ £17168	↓ £20298
% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces	2018-21	○	79.8%	↔ 78.4%	↑ 85.5%

Page 28

Emissions	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
CO2 emissions area wide per capita	2020/21	○	4.44	↑ 8.02	↔ 4.62
CO2 emissions area wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita	2020/21	○	5.30	↔ 5.19	↓ 4.09

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](#)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



FULLFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

From child to adult, everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to high quality education and the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential



Early Years	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost per Pre-School Education Place	2021/22	●	£10141	↔ £10430	↔ £10283
% of funded early years provision which is graded good/better	2021/22	●	92.5%	↑ 90.6%	↑ 89.4%

Page 282

Primary School	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost Per Primary School Pupil	2021/22	○	£5999	↑ £7802	↑ £6325
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	2021/22	○	68.9%	↑ 67.3%	↔ 70.5%
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	2021/22	○	76.6%	↑ 75.3%	↔ 77.9%
Literacy Attainment Gap	2021/22	●	38.4pp	↓ 27.4pp	↔ 21.3pp
Numeracy Attainment Gap	2021/22	●	33.69pp	↓ 22.6pp	↓ 17.8pp

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



FULLFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

From child to adult, everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to high quality education and the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential



Secondary School	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost per Secondary School Pupil	2021/22	○	£7912	↑ £9926	↔ £7898
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5	2021/22	○	68%	↔ 68%	↔ 69%
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6	2021/22	○	42%	↓ 38%	↔ 40%
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 (SIMD)	2021/22	●	33%	↑ 46%	↑ 52%
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 (SIMD)	2021/22	○	20%	↓ 17%	↑ 23%
Overall Average Total Tariff	2021/22	○	982	↓ 948	↔ 981
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 1	2021/22	●	540	↑ 611	↑ 702
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 2	2021/22	●	821	↓ 751	↑ 827
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 3	2021/22	○	919	↑ 942	↑ 965
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 4	2021/22	○	1067	↑ 1075	↑ 1113
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 5	2021/22	○	1296	↓ 1173	↑ 1316

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk/Benchmarking)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

From child to adult, everyone in the Scottish Borders has access to high quality education and the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential



Attendance/Exclusion	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
School attendance rate	2020/21	○	93%	↔ 94%	↔ 92%
School attendance rate (Looked After Children)	2020/21	●	85.1%	↔ 87.8%	↔ 87.9%
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)	2020/21	●	4.5	↑ 10.4	↑ 11.9
Participation rate for 16-19 year olds (per 100)	2021/22	●	93.4%	↔ 93.2%	↔ 92.4%
Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	2021/22	●	96.6%	↔ 95.5%	↔ 95.7%

Satisfaction	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
% of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools	2018/21	●	70.5%	↑ 75.8%	↑ 75.0%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Built upon strong and effective physical and digital connections and infrastructure, the benefits of a productive and sustainable economy are widely shared, enabling us to fulfil our potential in the Scottish Borders and attract others to live, work and visit



Trading Standards, Environmental Health & Planning	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost of Trading Standards and environmental health per 1,000 population	2021/22	●	£18215	↑ £33440	↑ £22152
Cost of Trading Standards per 1000	2021/22	●	£5314	↑ £10583	↑ £5926
Cost of planning and building standards Per Planning Application	2021/22	●	£5478	↓ £4232	↓ £4337
Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks)	2021/22	●	9.8	↑ 12.5	↑ 11.7

Page 285

Roads	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost of roads per kilometre	2021/22	○	£6367	↔ £5923	↑ £11078
% of A Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	2020/22	●	34.8%	↓ 28.1%	↓ 27.6%
% of B Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	2020/22	○	36.1%	↓ 33.9%	↓ 33.6%
% of C Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	2020/22	○	34.9%	↔ 35.5%	↔ 33.2%
% of unclassified roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	2018/22	●	49.2%	↓ 42.5%	↓ 36.7%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Built upon strong and effective physical and digital connections and infrastructure, the benefits of a productive and sustainable economy are widely shared, enabling us to fulfil our potential in the Scottish Borders and attract others to live, work and visit



Economic Development	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Investment in of Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population	2021/22	●	£74297	↑ £168643	↑ £119144
Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	2021/22	○	86.9%	↓ 79.4%	↑ 94.1%
Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes	2021/22	●	42.3%	↔ 40.7%	↓ 27.2%
% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises	2021/22	●	19.8%	↑ 34.2%	↑ 29.9%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Built upon strong and effective physical and digital connections and infrastructure, the benefits of a productive and sustainable economy are widely shared, enabling us to fulfil our potential in the Scottish Borders and attract others to live, work and visit



Economy Indicators	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Town Vacancy Rates	2021/22	○	11.5%	↔ 10.3%	↔ 11.4%
No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population	2022/23	○	15.6	↔ 15.2	↓ 11.9
Proportion of people earning less than the real living wage	2021/22	●	21.7%	↓ 18.4%	↓ 14.4%
Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita	2020/21	●	£20019	↑ £23354	↑ £24721
Claimant Count as a % of Working Age Population	2022/23	○	3%	↔ 2.5%	↔ 3.2%
Claimant Count as a % of 16-24 Population	2022/23	○	3.4%	↔ 3%	↔ 3.5%
% of unemployed people assisted into work from council operated / funded employability programmes	2021/22	○	10.8%	↑ 12.9%	↑ 19.6%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](#)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

The Scottish Borders has thriving, inclusive communities where people support each other and take responsibility for their local area



Leisure	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost per library visit	2021/22	○	£4.38	↔ £5.11	↔ £2.90
% of adults satisfied with libraries	2018/21	●	61.9%	↑ 73.7%	↑ 74.4%
Cost per visit to Museums & Galleries	2021/22	●	£22.34	↓ £13.55	↓ £4.75
% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries	2018/21	●	54.1%	↑ 65%	↑ 71.3%
Cost per attendance at sports facilities	2021/22	●	£3.77	↔ £5.43	↔ £6.43
% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities	2021/22	○	67.9%	↑ 70.9%	↑ 71.8%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk/Benchmarking)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life



Grant/Funding	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
% of Crisis Grant Decisions within 1 day	2022/23	●	97.7%	↓ 93.3%	↓ 92.0%
% CCG Grant Decisions within 15 Days	2022/23	●	90.0%	↔ 85.8%	↔ 87.7%
Proportion of SWF Funding Spent	2021/22	○	69.6%	↑ 95.2%	↑ 115.2%
Proportion of DHP Funding Spent	2021/22	○	80.7%	↑ 86.8%	↑ 96%

Page 289

Looked After Children	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week	2020/21	○	£3707	↑ £4576	↑ £4495
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week	2020/21	○	£380	↔ £352	↔ £392
% of children being looked after in the community	2020/21	●	85.1%	↔ 86.9%	↑ 90.3%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life



Adult Social Care	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Home care costs per hour for people aged 65 or over	2021/22	○	£26.13	↔ £27.02	↔ £28.71
Self Directed Support spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+	2021/22	○	7.6%	↔ 6.5%	↔ 8.4%
Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over	2021/22	○	£658	↔ £618	↔ £649
% of adults supported at home who agree that their support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life	2021/22	●	70.5%	↑ 75.9%	↑ 78.1%
% of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible	2021/22	●	73.1%	↑ 75.6%	↑ 78.8%
% of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their support was provided	2021/22	●	63.4%	↑ 67.7%	↑ 70.6%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk/Benchmarking)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life



Adult Social Care	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
% of unpaid carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role	2021/22	○	29.4%	↔ 30.2%	↔ 29.7%
% of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs receiving personal care at home	2021/22	●	64.8%	↓ 61.3%	↓ 61.9%
Proportion of care services graded 'good' (4) or better in Care Inspectorate inspections	2021/22	○	77.9%	↔ 79.6%	↓ 75.8%
Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges	2021/22	●	102.1	↔ 107.6	↔ 109.6
Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 pop (75+)	2021/22	●	114	↓ 68	↓ 77

Environmental Health	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population	2021/22	●	£12,901	↑ £22857	↑ £15016

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

Scottish Borders Council will be a well-run and efficient organisation. We will have well informed, timely and effective decision making, which is evidence led and focussed on the needs of customers and communities, and we will have a positive open culture



Finance	Year	Status	SBC		Family Group	Scotland
Support services as a % of total gross expenditure	2021/22	●	5.9%	↔	4.0%	↔ 4.1%
% of the highest paid 5% employees who are women	2021/22	○	52.2%	↔	51.0%	↔ 59.0%
The gender pay gap (%)	2021/22	●	3.2%	↑	6.3%	↔ 3.5%
The cost per dwelling of collecting council tax	2021/22	○	£8.03	↔	£6.66	↔ £6.59
Sickness absence days per teacher	2021/22	○	6.0	↔	6.3	↔ 5.8
Sickness absence days per employee (non-teacher)	2021/22	○	11.3	↔	11.7	↔ 12.2
% of income due from council tax received	2021/22	●	96.5%	↔	96.6%	↔ 95.7%
% of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days	2021/22	●	94.0%	↓	90.9%	↔ 92.2%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:
[Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](#)

Key: ● Positive ○ Similar to Others ● Focus for Consideration



WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

Scottish Borders Council will be a well-run and efficient organisation. We will have well informed, timely and effective decision making, which is evidence led and focussed on the needs of customers and communities, and we will have a positive open culture



Housing/Buildings	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
% of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	2021/22	○	84.3%	↔ 82.5%	↔ 85.3%
% of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	2020/21	●	67.9%	↑ 89.8%	↑ 90.1%



This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank