

# Public Document Pack

**Eildon**  
Area Partnership

**Our Scottish Borders**  
Your community

## Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, 25 January 2024

**Time:** 6 pm

**Location:** Via Microsoft Teams

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.

Please be advised that those watching the Livestream will not be able to view the breakout rooms taking place at Item No. 7. If you would like to take part in the breakout rooms, please contact [Declan.Hall@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:Declan.Hall@scotborders.gov.uk) for a meeting invite.

## AGENDA

1.	<b>Welcome and Meeting Protocols</b>
2.	<b>Additional Information Document</b> (Pages 3 - 6)  Copy attached.
3.	<b>Feedback from Meeting of 16 November 2023</b> (Pages 7 - 10)  Minute of Meeting held on 16 November 2023. (Copy attached.)
	<b>Section 1: Service and Partner Updates</b>
4.	<b>Eildon Day Services Update</b>  Elke Fabry (Scottish Borders Council Project Manager)
5.	<b>Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) Update</b>  Alex (Member of SYP)
	<b>Section 2: Local Priorities</b>
6.	<b>Edinburgh Napier University - Scottish Borders Interviews</b>  Kenny Harrow ( Scottish Borders Council – Community Co-ordinator.)
7.	<b>Scottish Borders Council Budget 2023/24 - Breakout Discussion</b>  An opportunity to breakout into separate Microsoft Teams rooms with Councillor Euan Jardine (Council Leader) and Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nicol (Opposition Leader) to discuss the upcoming Scottish Borders Council budget and the priority themes within the

	live consultation.
	<b>Section 3: Community Empowerment and Community Funding</b>
8.	<b>Eildon Funding Table 2023/24</b> (Pages 11 - 12)  Erin Coltman (Scottish Borders Council Community Engagement Officer) (Copy attached.)
9.	<b>Neighbourhood Support Fund 2023/24</b> (Pages 13 - 14)  Jenny Mushlin (Chair – Eildon Assessment Panel Chair)  Eildon Assessment Panel to present funding recommendations for the following NSF applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recovery Coaching Scotland</li> <li>• Melrose Imagination Library</li> <li>• Borders Chamber Choir</li> </ul> (Copy attached.)
	<b>Section 4: Other</b>
10.	<b>Meeting Evaluation Via Menti</b>
11.	<b>Any Other Business</b>
12.	<b>Next Area Partnership</b>  Thursday, 21 March 2024. Agenda Issued: 7 March 2024.

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

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## SBC Current Consultations

### **Budget Survey 2024/25**

Closes: 31 January 2024



We want to take this opportunity to get your feedback on key areas relating to our upcoming 2024/25 budget and also your own views on what our priorities should be under those six themes in the next Council Plan. In completing the survey, please bear in mind that over recent years the rising rate of inflation has had a huge impact on the Council's costs, as have national pay awards (around 50% of our costs are staffing).

Our income, from government, Council Tax (around 20% of our income), and other sources has not kept pace with the increase in costs.

Read more: [Budget Survey 2024/25 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

### **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**

Closes: 12 February 2024



In line with the requirements of Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983, Scottish Borders Council is undertaking a review of polling districts and polling places for use in parliamentary and local elections.

Read more: [Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

### **Provision of Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) Parent Consultation**

Closes: 10 March 2024



Local Authorities in Scotland are required to consult with parents every 2 years, to support their planning for the delivery of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). This questionnaire is aimed at parents/carers whose children will access ELC provision in the future and those currently accessing ELC provision. It is also useful for the Council to consult with parents /carers whose children are now at Primary School. If you are responding as a parent/carer who previously accessed ELC provision, please respond to the questions based on your experience.

Read more: [Provision of Early Learning & Childcare \(ELC\) Parent Consultation 2023 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

### **Have Your Say - Placemaking and Community Engagement Sign Up**



Placemaking is a process of community engagement where the opinions and desires of the community are used to inform the future of the places we live, work and play - and by getting involved and telling us what matters to you, we can make sure the voices of all Scottish Borders residents are heard.

Read more: [Have Your Say - Placemaking and Community Engagement Sign Up - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

# Scottish Government Current Consultations

There are currently 16 active Scottish Government consultations:



- Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: consultation
- Ending conversion practices in Scotland: consultation
- Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018: proposed amendments
- Guidance on inclusive design for town centres and busy streets
- Managing deer for climate and nature: consultation
- Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS3)
- Proposals for a Heat in Buildings Bill: Consultation
- Social Housing Net Zero Standard in Scotland
- Democracy Matters
- Water, wastewater and drainage policy consultation
- Consultation on devolving powers for a Scottish Building Safety Levy
- Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill
- Cancer Care: Review of Brain/CNS Cancer Quality Performance Indicators - Consultation
- Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD): Consultation on phase 6 of the eradication scheme
- Consultation on permanency of certain criminal justice measures from the Coronavirus Recovery and Reform (Scotland) Act 2022 and modernising criminal justice procedures through digital processes
- Care Leaver Payment: Consultation on policy proposals

Please see the Scottish Government website for more information: [Find activities - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space](#)

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## **Food Conversations**

The Food Conversations meeting on 17 November 2023 had a presentation from Emma Husband (SBC Community Engagement Officer) on the food provision mapping exercise that was carried out by meeting attendees. The mapping exercise allowed an accurate database to be produced and flyers were then distributed through the Scottish Borders to inform local communities of the food provision assistance available.

Attendees took part in breakout rooms to discuss any concerns and/or provision gaps there may be for the winter months. The main concerns from attendees were of an increase in demand and decrease in donations, a lack of staff/volunteers, and the increase in the cost of living for a greater number of people.

The next Food Conversations meeting is on Friday, 23 February 2024, 10am – 12 noon. If you are interested in joining these meetings, please let us know.

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## **Community Choices**

There are no updates for Community Choices. Should this change, an update on the latest meeting will be provided at the Area Partnership.

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## **Community Empowerment**

Currently, there are no formal Participation Requests being considered within the Eildon locality.

Scottish Borders Council is currently involved in initial Asset Transfer discussions with two community-based groups and advancing discussions with a third community-based group.

For information about the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act: summary - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Community_Empowerment_Scotland_Act_summary)

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## **Place Making**

A place-based approach is about understanding the potential of a place and coordinating action to improve outcomes, with community participation at the heart of the process. For information, tools and resources on place-based approaches visit [Our Place](#)

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## **Area Partnerships Information Pack**

[Eildon Area Partnership | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

[Community engagement, planning and ownership | Area Partnership information pack | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

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## **Community Councils:**

Scottish Community Councils Latest News, including information about funding opportunities and national consultations:

[Community Council News](#)

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## **Scottish Borders Council Meetings**

[Browse meetings - Scottish Borders Council - Scottish Borders Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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## **Cost of Living Support**

[Financial support and advice | Cost of Living Crisis support | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

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## **Debt Advice:**

[Citizens Advice Bureau](#)



Download the NHS  
Borders Money Worries  
App here

## **Covid-19 vaccination programme**

<https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

## **NHS Borders website for current updates:**

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/coronavirus/>

## **Business support**

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business>

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

## **General Funding:**

<https://fundingscotland.com/>

[Grants Online](#)

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

[Community grants and funding | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

[Neighbourhood Support Fund | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

[SBC Enhancement & Welfare Trust](#)

## **NHS Borders Wellbeing Service:**

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

## **NHS Borders Wellbeing Point:**

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

<https://www.rcot.co.uk/conserving-energy>

This includes pacing, fatigue management and some ideas about restarting gentle exercise

<https://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk/>

This covers most aspects, including information from physiotherapy and occupational therapy websites

<https://www.chss.org.uk/advice-line-nurses/>

Phone or email to access their support/advice

**Eildon  
Area Partnership**



MINUTE of Meeting of the EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP held Via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 16 November 2023 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillors E. Thornton-Nicol (Chair), C. Cochrane, L. Douglas, E. Jardine, J. Linehan, N. Mackinnon, D. Parker, J. PatonDay, F. Sinclair and H. Steel together with 9 representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils, and members of the public.

In Attendance:- Community Co-Ordinator (K. Harrow), Community Engagement Officer (E. Coltman), Democratic Services Team Leader.

1. **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held via Microsoft Teams.

2. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

There had been circulated copies of an additional information document with the agenda.

3. **FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION FROM MEETING OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Minute of the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held on 7 September June 2023 had been circulated and was noted. The Community Engagement Officer, Mr Erin Coltman, highlighted that the speed introductions held at the previous meeting had been well received and had demonstrated the range of experiences and interests amongst the attendees. The feedback on the presentation by Borders Community Action had been positive. The Community Development Support Team at Borders Community Action continued to hold regular talks and meetings, with the next one due to be held at Eildon Housing Headquarters on Tuesday, 21 November 2023.

3. **TIME FOR CHANGE – NHS BORDERS**

The Chair welcomed Mr Ralph Roberts, Chief Executive of NHS Borders and Mr Chris Myers, the Chair of the Integrated Joint Board. Mr Roberts explained that presentation were being delivered at the five Area Partnership sessions on 'Time For Change' a wide ranging conversation with communities to consider the range of NHS services in the Scottish Borders and to feed into a refresh of NHS Borders Medium Term Plan. The scale of challenges in planning and delivering health services to meet need were unprecedented; significant workforce challenges allied with a smaller working age population (45% vs 65% nationally), over a large rural area and a growing financial deficit. Under the four suggested discussion headings: Services In the Community; Community Bed Based Services; Acute Hospital Services; and Mental Health Services there had been an audit of provision, public feedback, achievements and areas of focus. A further community engagement drop-in session was to be held at the Great Tapestry of Scotland Building in Galashiels from 2-7pm on Wednesday, 29 November. Mr Myers highlighted that the community, and all major parties would be key to delivering a health service that was fit for purpose into the future. Whilst the rural nature of the region presented challenges it also presented good conditions for innovation to thrive. The Chair highlighted that "older people" rather than "elderly" was the preferred term to refer to people as they grew older. The Chair further highlighted the importance of more long-term contracts for care providers such as physios, and that providing care directly in communities had huge potential cost and patient satisfaction benefits. It was highlighted

that the message to the general public on Time for Change needed to be managed effectively to ensure that rumours did not cause unnecessary panic. Attendees stressed that any change to services which would require people to travel out of their local area needed to be carefully considered to ensure that people were not disadvantaged. The importance of the range of services being more joined up was suggested as something that needed to be taken into account. Mr Roberts acknowledged the concerns which had expressed throughout the discussion and confirmed that there were no plans in place to close any services or facilities. The Health Service, like most of society, was facing considerable pressure on its resources and needed to ensure that it could balance its priorities and deliver for the people of the Scottish Borders. The Time for Change discussions would feed into and inform how the Service was shaped for the future. Mr Coltman undertook to share the details with community networks prior to the session.

#### 4. **DESTINATION TWEED**

4.1 The Chair welcomed Marina Piper, the Project Manager with Destination Tweed to provide a presentation. Ms Piper explained the Destination Tweed project was focused on celebrating and sharing the nature, history and stories of the River Tweed, as well as caring for and enjoying the river in a sustainable way. The project would involve developing a source to sea trail and enhancing habitats. Over 30 partners and funders, including Scottish Borders Council, Visit Scotland, SOSE and Visit Scotland were involved. Work was ongoing to build up resources and capacity to ensure that the 5 year project could be delivered. The source to sea trail was an element which SBC had led the way. The focus was on ensuring that various existing paths and ways were linked up and joined to deliver the trail. Design principles were in place, with ramped access and self-closing gates in place of styles expected to ensure that the route was accessible. Ms Piper highlighted the various elements of the river Tweed trail which were complete, underway, or pending. The Melrose to Maxton route was expected to involve a bike route, with scoping ongoing. Work was ongoing to determine how best to tell the story of the river alongside the route, to ensure that people were engaged. Ms Piper highlighted the various projects alongside the Destination Tweed project, including the Crook Inn Bunkhouse, where there was a planned accessible room, connecting threads story telling workshops and bug life planting sessions. Tweed Watch was holding sessions in Old Melrose with Newstead Primary School students as part of health and wellbeing sessions. Uncovering the Tweed were identifying sites using LIDAR data and aerial photographs. A Community Grants scheme totalling £200k over 3 years was in development. Work on tackling invasive non-native species was ongoing. Pollinators Along the Tweed, focused on improving the number of and biodiversity of the species along the river Tweed, was expected to improve 15 sites in the current year. The overall plan involved transformational and meaningful change of the landscape in partnership with multiple partners and funders. The benefits were expected to be seen across the economy, environment and communities. The entire scheme was focused on a low carbon tourism model, with effective public transport links and active travel.

4.2 Attendees thanked Ms Piper for her presentation and encouraged her to keep up the good work. In response to a question regarding whether the potential for the Tweed corridor to be designated as a National Park, Ms Piper explained that the group would embrace the opportunity if that happened but would continue on their work if that did not turn out to be the case. Ms Piper acknowledged the potential benefits of a national park.

#### 5. **EILDON FUNDING TABLE**

There had been circulated copies of the Eildon Funding Table 2023/24 with the agenda. Mr Coltman outlined that £13.1k of the Neighbourhood Support Fund 2023/24 pot remained if the application to be considered at the meeting was approved.

#### 6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND 2023/24**

There had been circulated copies of an application for £10k from Melrose Football Club. The funding applied for would be used as part of the Club's plans to refurbish the Engine Room on Gibson Park and construct an extension to provide a community hub and



changing rooms. The funding would be used to complete the RIAS stages. In its consideration the Assessment Panel had noted the significant number of community comments by the public on the planning portal in relation to the planning application and the considerable work which the Club had undertaken as part of the project. The strong community focus of the application had acknowledged, and the Panel had recommended to fund the application in full. Members unanimously approved the application in full. The Chair welcomed Mr Greg Simpson of the Club to the meeting. Mr Simpson expressed his thanks for the grant.

7. **MEETING EVALUATION VIA MENTI**

The meeting evaluation link for Menti was displayed, and the Chair encouraged attendees to share ideas for future meetings.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Community Co-ordinator, Mr Kenny Harrow, highlighted that Scottish Borders Council was undertaking a varied grass cutting trial in areas of Galashiels, Tweedbank, and Selkirk. The cutting regimes in certain areas would be changed to allow longer between cuts in specific areas to link in with the Destination Tweed project.

9. **NEXT AREA PARTNERSHIP – THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2024**

The Chair advised that the next meeting would be held via Microsoft Teams. The meetings in March and June would be held in-person.

*The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.*

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## Eildon Funding 2023/24

25 January 2024

Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) 2023/24	
	£
Opening balance as of 01/04/2023	£ 86,073.00
<b>Total available</b>	<b>£ 86,073.00</b>
<b>Less:</b>	
NSF applications awarded since 01/04/2023	£ 74,087.69
NSF applications that are assessed and await decision	£ 11,976.00
Sub-total	£ 86,063.69
<b>Funds remaining if assessed applications are successful</b>	<b>£ 9.31</b>
NSF applications still to be assessed	£ -
<b>Potential Overall Position</b>	<b>£ 9.31</b>

Other sources of grant funding - Eildon			
Grant Type	Available	Awarded	Remaining
Local Festival Grants	£ 28,400.00	£ 25,100.00	£ 3,300.00
Annual Support Grants (Community Councils)	£ 10,525.00	£ 8,275.00	£ 2,250.00
Common Good (Galashiels)	£ 500.00	£ 590.00	-£ 90.00
Common Good (Lauder)	£ 5,900.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 2,900.00
Common Good (Selkirk)	£ 18,150.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 16,650.00
William Hill Trust	£ 12,090.00	£ 1,720.00	£ 10,370.00
SBC Enhancement Trust	£ 3,686.11	£ 2,142.85	£ 1,543.26
SBC Welfare Trust	£ 11,810.12	£ 9,744.00	£ 2,066.12
	<b>£ 91,061.23</b>	<b>£ 52,071.85</b>	<b>£ 38,989.38</b>

Summary of NSF applications						
No.	Date	Fund	Organisation Name	Amount	Project	Status
1	08/04/2023	NSF	Gala Cricket Club	£ 1,200.00	New mower	Awarded
2	03/05/2023	NSF	Selkirk Hill Management Group	£ 749.00	New mower	Awarded
3	11/05/2023	NSF	Hike and Bike Hub	£ 6,150.00	Rent costs	Awarded
4	13/05/2023	NSF	Go Wild Scotland	£ 9,992.78	Salary costs	Awarded
5	26/05/2023	NSF	Lauder Larder	£ 5,407.82	Food provision expansion	Awarded
6	30/05/2023	NSF	Trustees of Bowden Common	£ 934.55	Equipment for Common maintenance	Awarded
9	02/08/2023	NSF	Interest Link Borders	£ 10,000.00	Learning disabilities befriending project	Awarded
10	03/08/2023	NSF	Lauderdale Community & Leisure Centre	£ 7,985.54	One-off emergency support	Awarded
11	04/08/2023	NSF	Lauderdale Initiative	£ 10,000.00	Christmas lights 2023	Awarded
12	06/08/2023	NSF	TD1 Youth Hub	£ 9,360.00	TD1 Active	Awarded
13	10/09/2023	NSF	Lilliesleaf Community Development Ltd	£ 697.00	Leaf Green Growing Area	Assessed
14	28/09/2023	NSF	Melrose FC	£ 10,000.00	Changing room upgrade	Awarded
15	26/10/2023	NSF	Scottish Country Dancing	£ 828.00	Dance festival 2024	Awarded
16	27/11/2023	NSF	Recovery Coaching Scotland	£ 4,255.00	Breakfast Club - Borders in Recovery	Assessed
17	10/12/2023	NSF	Melrose Imagination Library	£ 2,204.00	Imagination library	Assessed
18	13/12/2023	NSF	Borders Chamber Choir	£ 4,820.00	Easter concert	Assessed
19	08/01/2024	NSF	Bannerfield Horticultural and Allotment Assoc.	£ 1,480.00	Water borehole and irrigation system	Awarded
<b>Total</b>				<b>£ 86,063.69</b>		

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### **Recovery Coaching Scotland**

£4,255.00

Recovery Coaching Scotland (RCS) would like to create a breakfast club as a pilot project. The club will support individuals and families affected by substance use, social isolation, poor mental health, and poverty in the Eildon area. RCS is already providing weekday support for people in recovery, however across the Scottish Borders, there is no support available at weekends. RCS will work in partnership with all agencies concerned to provide lived-experience support for community members, which will be provided by its current staff, who will be offered additional hours. RCS is currently supporting approximately 60 people per week, via the recovery café network that it operates and sees the breakfast club as the next logical progression to help fulfil unmet need.

#### Panel thoughts

- Very worthwhile project that will provide valuable support to those in need, during a time of the week where there is a clear lack of service provision.
- The panel notes the close partnership working with other agencies and appreciates the effort of RCS to ensure the thoughts and views of clients and their families were captured via multiple consultation events.
- The panel is pleased that the Eildon locality is the host of the pilot project and looks forward to seeing how it develops in future years.

**The panel recommends to fund this project in full, to the value of £4,255.00.**

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### **Melrose Imagination Library**

£2,204.00

Melrose Imagination Library is a brand new, local organisation, keen to utilise the Dolly Parton's "*Dollywood Foundation*" Imagination Library which gifts a book to every child in a designated area (Melrose and District in this case), every month from birth until their fifth birthday.

Funding is sought from the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund to cover the first year of expenses, namely the purchases of books, with funding in future years to come from local fundraising events and other funders.

#### Panel thoughts

- The panel is supportive of this project as it is directly encouraging and improving the comprehension skills of young people.
- The project will help to fill a gap in service provision, previously covered by Live Borders' free, weekly "Bookbug" storytelling and singing sessions which are no longer taking place, without the need to attend a library at a specific time.
- The panel notes the expertise of the volunteers involved in the Melrose Imagination Library and the initial work that has been undertaken to develop working relationships with the Dollywood Foundation and Borders Community Action. The panel encourages Melrose Imagination Library to link in with the Community Engagement and Funding Officer at Live Borders.

**The panel recommends to fund this project in full, to the value of £2,204.00.**

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## **Borders Chamber Choir**

£4,820.00

Borders Chamber Choir is organising a performance of Bach's St. John Passion on Easter Saturday, 30 March 2024 in Melrose Parish Church. The performance will bring together 55 performers alongside the Borders Chamber Orchestra.

The application to the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund is primarily for solo performers, travel costs and marketing/publicity.

### Panel thoughts

- The panel is keen to support free-to-enter, inclusive, events in the Eildon locality.
- The panel recognises the success of the Waverley Consort performance in 2023 and is supportive of another event in 2024.
- The panel notes the strong community focus of Borders Chamber Choir, namely the desire to engage with local schools to encourage participation in music and the arts as well as the significant funds that will be raised for local charities/ community organisations.

**The panel recommends to fund this project in full, to the value of £4,820.00.**

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