

Localities Bid Fund Round One

Project Evaluation

The survey asked respondents for their views on aspects of the Localities Bid Fund (LBF) including publicity, the application process and the public voting process.

The survey was available on Scottish Borders Council's Consultation Hub from 21st March to the 11th April. Groups that had submitted applications to the LBF were sent an email link to the survey which was also made available to the wider public.

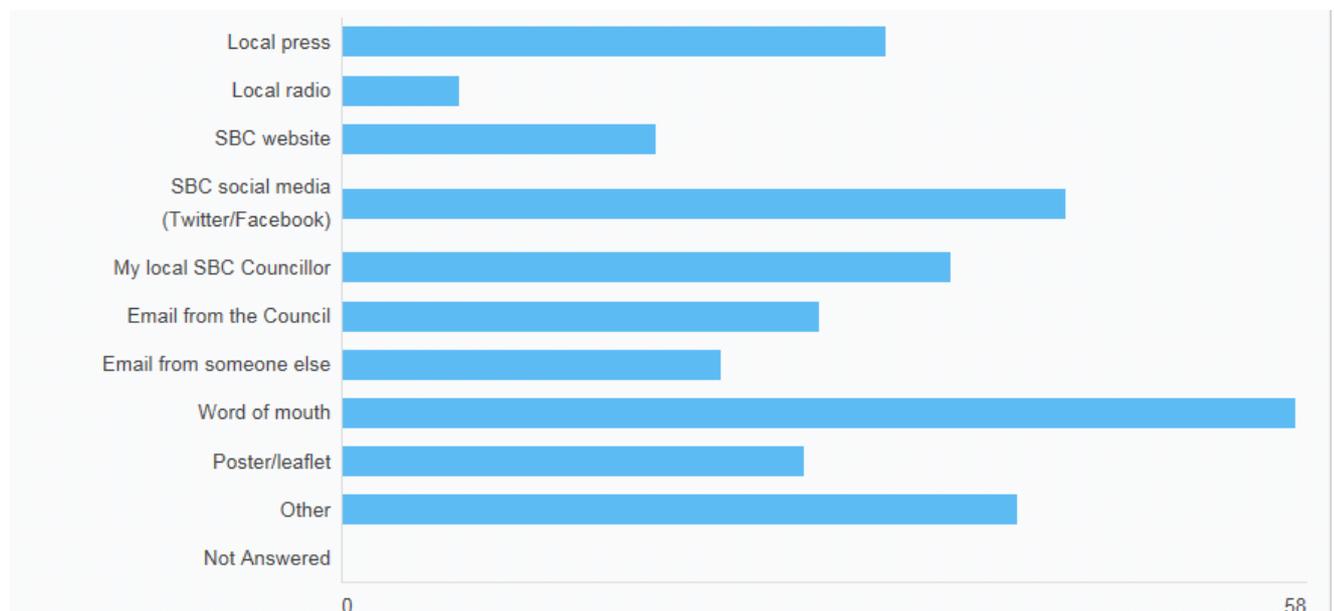
A total of 181 responses were received, of these 76 were from those who had submitted an application to the LBF while 105 were from those that hadn't.

Completion of the survey was anonymous to encourage honest responses.

Results

How did you hear about the Localities Bid Fund?

Respondents were asked to indicate all the ways in which they had heard about the fund. The most common way was via word of mouth (32%) followed by social media (24%) and other (23%). Other ways that people heard about the fund included, non-SBC social media, from groups applying for funding, community councils and the Third Sector.



Option	Total	Percent
Local press	33	18.23%
Local radio	7	3.87%
SBC website	19	10.50%
SBC social media (Twitter/Facebook)	44	24.31%
My local SBC Councillor	37	20.44%
Email from the Council	29	16.02%
Email from someone else	23	12.71%
Word of mouth	58	32.04%
Poster/leaflet	28	15.47%
Other	41	22.65%
Not Answered	0	0%

NB: percentages add to more than 100% as respondents were asked to indicate all ways in which they had heard about the fund.

How would you like to hear about future rounds of the Localities Bids Fund?

There were 153 responses to the question with social media (41%) followed by email (34%), including direct to the group/individual, being the preferred ways in which people would like to hear about future rounds of the fund.

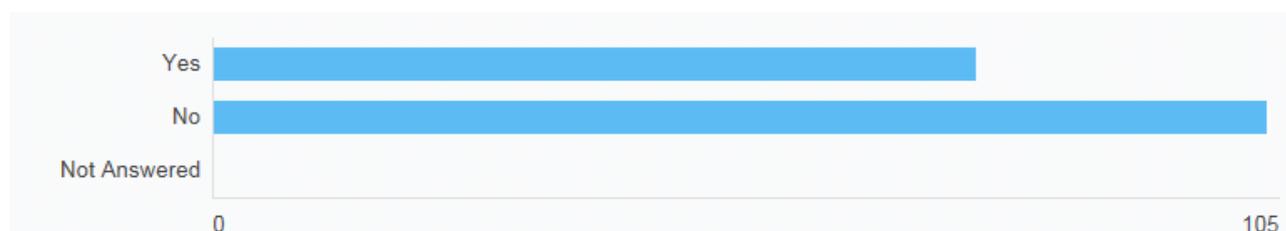
Ways in which people would like to hear the future	%
As previously	12%
Community newsletter	2%
Councillors	1%
E-mail	34%
Media/press	24%
Posters	7%
Social media	41%
Other	29%

NB: percentages add to more than 100% as respondents were asked to indicate all ways in which they would like to hear about future rounds of the fund.

Other ways indicated by respondents included Third Sector, community councils and leaflet/postcard through the door.

Did you, or your group, submit an application to the Localities Bid Fund?

Of the 181 responses 76 were completed by those who had submitted an application to the LBF while 105 were completed by those that hadn't.



Option	Total	Percent of All
Yes	76	41.99%
No	105	58.01%
Not Answered	0	0%

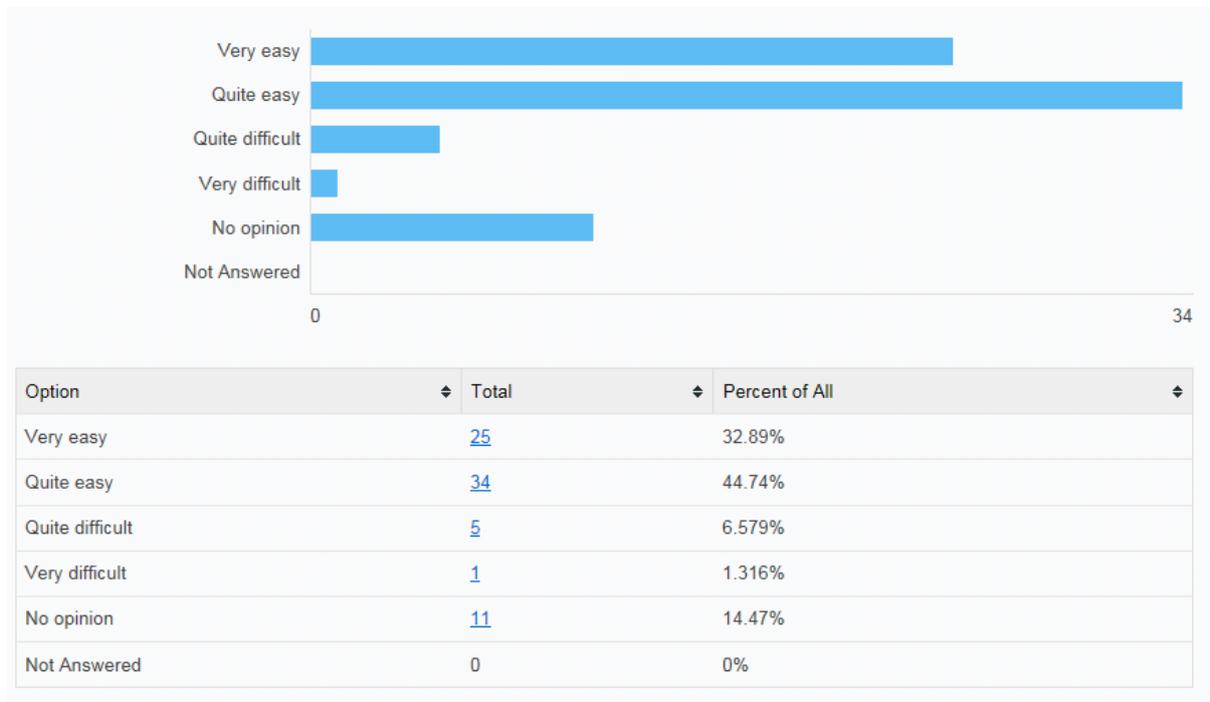
How satisfied were you with the application process?

Respondents that had submitted an application to the fund were generally satisfied with the application process with 76% of those who submitted an application satisfied with the availability of information about the fund and 62% satisfied with the overall application process. 26% were dissatisfied with the clarity of the guidelines and 25% dissatisfied with the overall application process.

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No opinion/not applicable
Availability of information about the fund	17%	59%	9%	3%	12%
Clarity of the guidelines	13%	49%	17%	9%	12%
Clarity of the application form	21%	50%	6.5%	6.5%	16%
Overall application process	15%	47%	17%	8%	13%
Communication with SBC staff throughout the application process	28%	38%	3%	4%	27%
Helpfulness of SBC staff throughout the application process	29%	37%	1%	3%	30%

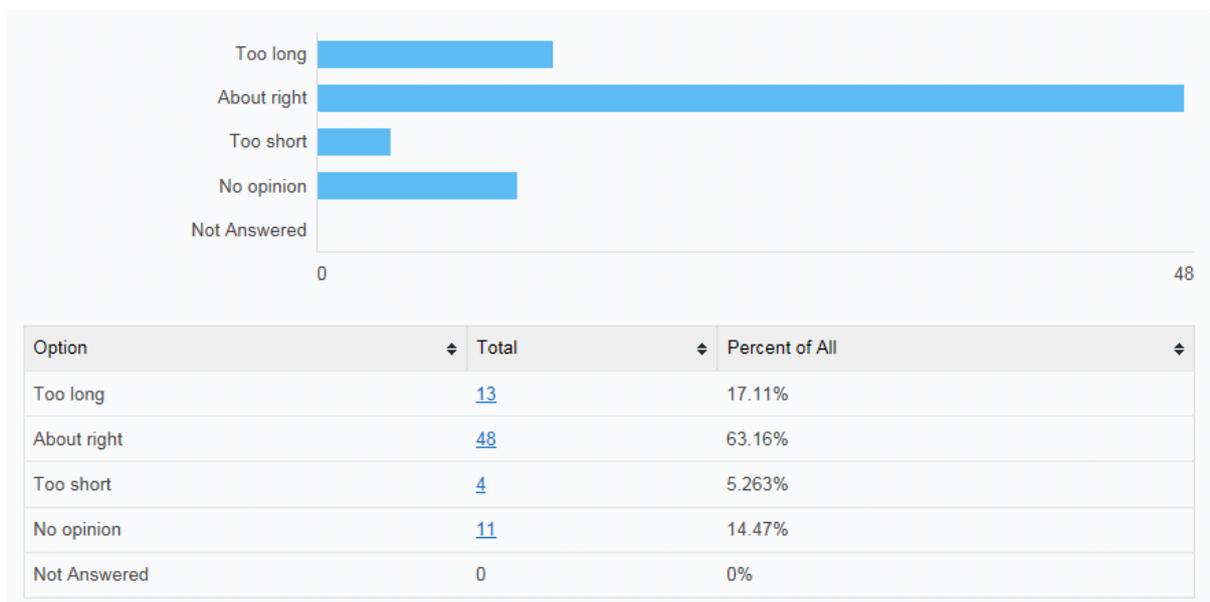
How easy did you find it to complete the application form?

78% of applicants found the application form easy to complete while 8% found it difficult. 14% expressed no opinion.



Did you think the application period (7 weeks) was suitable?

17% of applicants, who expressed an opinion, thought the application period was too long while 5% thought it was too short. 63% of applicants, who expressed an opinion, thought it was about right.



Comments about the application process

Applicants were asked if they had any general comments to make about the application process. These were grouped into the following categories:

Comments by category	%
Allocation process	8%
Application form	11%
Communications	16%
Fairness	25%
Funding cap	16%
Positive comment	7%
Timescales	3%
Voting process	10%
Other	4%

NB: comments may fall in to more than one category

Most comments were made about the fairness of the process, a funding cap and communication about the project.

These included:

Fairness (25%)

- the desire for a funding cap
- the desire for a more even distribution of funds to avoid a few projects getting most of the money
- feeling that projects in larger communities stand more chance of getting voters than those from small villages

Communications (16%)

- publicity about the fund
- publicity about the voting process
- amount of funding that could be applied for

Funding cap (16%)

- suggestions that a funding cap of £5,000 be set

All comments received are available in appendix one

If you didn't submit an application please tell us why

105 respondents hadn't submitted an application. The reasons given for not doing so fell in to the following categories:

Comments by category	%
Capacity	3%
Clarity of criteria	5%
Communications	23%
Criteria (general)	3%
Fairness	8%
Individual	19%
No project in place	20%
Timescale/process time	10%
Voting abuse	1%
Other	6%

NB: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Comments may fall into more than category

23% of comments included communications as a reason for not submitting an application. These included lack of awareness about the fund in good time to submit an application or prior to the deadline for applications.

All comments received are available in appendix two.

How satisfied were you with the voting process?

All respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with various aspects of the voting process. The highest satisfaction levels were received in relation to the length of time allowed for the public vote, while the lowest levels of satisfaction were with the paper voting form.

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No opinion/not applicable
Voting guidance	13%	48%	14.5%	14.5%	10%
The different methods in which people could vote	16.5%	42%	14%	16.5%	11%
Online voting process	24%	36%	11%	14.5%	14.5%
Paper voting form	8%	25%	11%	16%	40%
Length of public voting period (4 weeks)	29%	46%	5%	7%	13%
Availability of voting forms	13%	29%	12%	11%	35%
Communication with staff during the voting process	10%	25%	3%	7%	55%
Helpfulness of staff during the voting process	13%	23%	4%	4%	55%

NB: percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

Comments about the voting process

Respondents were asked if they had any general comments to make about the voting process. These were grouped into the following categories:

Comments by category	%
Availability of voting papers	4%
Campaigning	5%
Communications	14%
Ese of use	2%
Fairness	25%
Funding cap	5%
Positive comment	3%
Timescales	1%
Voting abuse	34%
Voting bullying	2%
Other	5%

NB: comments may fall in to more than one category

The category in which the largest number of votes fell was voting abuse (34%). Comments in this category largely commented on individuals voting multiple times (both online and paper votes).

Comments that fell in to the fairness category (25%) included:

- advantage well-known groups have over smaller, new ones
- weighting of applications needed
- groups in larger centres of population have a better chance of securing votes

Comments that fell into the communications category (14%) included:

- lack of awareness
- more publicity required
- clearer communications message

All comments received are available in appendix three.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

Respondents were given the opportunity to make further comments, these were categorised as follows:

Comments by category	%
Administration	3%
Allocation of funds	12%
Communications	13%
Criteria	6%
Fairness	27%
Feedback	1%
Funding cap	13%
Negative comment (general)	2%
Positive comment (general)	9%
Voting abuse	8%
Other	6%

NB: Comments may fall in to more than one category

The largest percentage of comments 27% fell into the fairness category. These included comments on:

- funding cap is required to enable more groups to benefit
- voting process was being abused
- voting process favours larger communities

Comments made about communications (13%) included:

- name needs to be changed
- more information about the projects
- more/better publicity
- need to publicise fund much earlier

Comments that fell into the funding cap category (13%) included:

- funding cap of £5,000 should be introduced
- funding pot should be shared out more equally

Comments that were categorised as other (6%) included:

- coverage of projects by local media
- direct funding to support other services e.g. bus services
- other funds are available for community projects

All comments received are available in appendix four.

Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

Respondents were asked if there is anything that they think should be done differently in the next round of the Localities Bid Fund. Many of the comments had been raised in other sections of the survey and could be categorised as follows:

Comments by category	%
Allocation of funds	20%
Communications	18%
Fairness	29%
Feedback	1%
Negative comment (general)	2%
Positive comment (general)	1%
Voting process	20%
Other	8%

NB: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Comments may fall in to more than one category

As with the previous two questions the largest amount of comments fell in to the fairness category (29%) and included:

- funding should be awarded proportionately – not first past the post
- limit funding amount to each project to allow for wider dispersal
- ensure rural areas have access to funds
- spread the funding wider

20% comments were connection with both the allocation of funds and the voting process:

Allocation:

- share funding according to percentage of votes
- funds to be allocated to groups that support the vulnerable
- offer Borders wide option
- ring fence funds for rural applications

Voting process:

- use 'one person, one vote' system
- have an online vote only
- ballot boxes should be more widely available
- voting system should be weighted for smaller communities

8% of comments included statements that fell in to the 'other' category, these included:

- give the funding to community councils to distribute
- Electoral Registration Office should run it
- There should be an incentive to vote

All comments received are available in appendix five

Appendix one Application process - comments

Respondents were asked if they had any additional comments that they had about the application process they would like to include. These are listed below:

As a very small charity, the application process was very much focused online and generated by social media. our work is with older people and disadvantaged people who do not have access to computers so we relied on paper votes quite a lot.

Larger or more well known charities would be able to generate more votes.

For the cost of the administration, it would seem to be better to allocate funding for charities to apply too, rather than be reliant on populist voting.

As the process was quite protracted, and requiring the presentation event at the Burgh Hall, it did end up being fairly costly to us financially and in terms of time.

The application process must have cost SBC a lot of money in administration. It would be good if the amount spent here was transparent and available to the public as this money could have gone to some of the projects instead.

The voting system was very flawed in that people could vote multiple times - on a form, on an electronic device and vote using a postcode where they lived and a different one where they worked etc.

The amount each project could apply for should have been capped. Instead of a "first past the post" system, money could have been assigned proportionally with respect to the number of people voting for each project. This way it could have avoided the vast majority of any pot of money going to just one project.

Awards should be limited to £5,000 each to allow more to benefit

Considering it was new to everyone it was relatively easy

Greater scrutiny of the projects that getting through to the public vote.

Guidelines seemed to indicate that £5000 was the maximum that could be applied for. This was shown by the level of each bid submitted. However the winning bid got £XX swallowing the whole allocation for XX. The winning bid went to a community that does not even sit in XX!!

Guidelines should be given on how much money we can apply for and a cap put on the amount. It was unfair that the money was used up by people asking for large amounts e.g. XX getting £XXK... when 4 or 5 other groups could have benefited and, in XX, XX got the whole amount of available & the other two groups got nothing, even though they had only about 10 votes less - this does not represent what the community voted for.

I believe the handing out of the massive lump sum to the winners was a disgrace. This could have/should have been shared out more equally therefore aiding more groups. Discussing this with lots of friends the overwhelming opinion seems to be the same. It also raised a few eyebrows that for the smallish population of XX that they managed to gather so many votes. Would suggest a lower top prize rather than one group winning the national lottery.

Thank you

I didn't make the application personally. Another member of the team did this.

Appendix one

Application process - comments

I didn't personally complete it for my group so can't fully comment
I feel very strongly that there should have been an upper limit of £5/6K. This would have provided equity across the localities and meant that a similar number of projects were successful. In XX, where the first placed bid took £XXK, this left the other bids at a real disadvantage. I do not know of any similar small grant schemes that have an upper limit where one bid can claim the entire pot of money.
I found some difficulty in submitting the application form on line. Perhaps my limitations but worth checking.
I said at the outset of the process that it was weighted against small rural communities. I live in a village of less than 300 people (XX). Even if we were able to get everyone in the village to lend their vote, it would not have come close to the voting power of large towns such as XX. - and this is how it has turned out - out of the "top" 5 places in the vote 4 came from XX. I don't wish to appear a bad loser, but the system is flawed.
I thought it was very well managed, not overly onerous and communication was good. The thinking was logical and joined up.
I thought there was a 5k limit available via localities but that was because of a different funding application on the SBC webpage when I clicked through to find localities bid info. My fault as I clearly misread info but easy to confuse as so many funding types. if you are new to the process it's easy to mix things up.
I was not the one who completed the application for the group so cannot answer these questions
I would have liked to be given the opportunity to meet with the decision makers and answer any questions they may have
Make the application form easy to fill in electronically. The form was very poorly designed and very difficult to fill the various fields in with the right amount of information.
Maximum bid should be set at £5000
maximum should be 5k for any application
Money should have been spread more evenly
No as I've not been involved with the application process
One thing I would like to see is fairness. All projects get a fair deal with the top fund request being evenly spread out to all of most.
Points need to be made clearer!
Process is not an improvement on previous systems
Quite Straight Forward
Some older people I spoke with were a bit confused with online voting but this is to be expected

Appendix one

Application process - comments

<p>The application form and submission process was very straightforward for organisations that have policies and business plans in place. The communication from SBC was efficient and sent out to everyone at the same time about the application process.</p> <p>However, once shortlisted the voting procedure was 'drip fed' and a bit confusing at times as to what was expected mainly due to the fact that the voting time frame was a whole month (too long). People tried to vote too soon or via our own organisations' Facebook page and we had to do a lot of work to ensure people voted on line at SBC via the ballot boxes and at the right time.</p> <p>It took a little while for the places that had ballot boxes to realise what they were for and what they were supposed to do with them. Most were not up and running straight away. Our organisation has many vulnerable people and they struggled to fill in the ballot box forms as the post code section was right at the top of the form and people in the venues did not know anything about it.</p>
<p>The application process was straightforward but I have serious issues with the amounts that groups were able to go for and it was obvious that the biggest groups would be successful. There are also many very worthy charities and charitable, small local organisations who fit the criteria of the fund. For example, I think that giving £XX to a constituted group (XX).... without them even being a registered charity is going against what the fund was set up to achieve in the first place. We would never have dreamed of applying for that share of the pot and we have been in existence since 1992 as a registered charity with OSCR. I think there are groups that made it through the first stage that never should have made it as they did not fit the criteria for the fund</p>
<p>The form did not say on it that you had to be over 16 years to vote, but this was said on the website. There are rumours that under 16's did vote, which is unfair.</p>
<p>The functionality of the form was limited - difficult to format and paste into.</p>
<p>The process appeared to be open to a certain amount of duplicate or false voting.</p>
<p>The staff were very helpful.</p> <p>It was not clear how the projects were going to be judged and how the money was going to be allocated. It was explained to us by several councillors that, since this was the first time this process had been run, they were not clear how the money was to be allocated or how the votes were going to be used.</p>
<p>The whole process seemed to be very drawn out, but then if people are claiming they didn't know about it it could be counter argued that it was too short.</p>
<p>There is no way that a village with a small population can compete with larger towns, such as XX & XX. We simply don't have enough people to tap - particularly when you have to state on the form that you either work/live/volunteer within the relevant postcode. There are many visitors to the village either as relatives or passers-by who stop at the park but they were no eligible to vote. Despite that, we still would not have gained sufficient votes to come close to those in larger places.</p>
<p>There wasn't much point in smaller organisations trying to compete against projects that already have government funding, higher population and asking for the majority of the fund</p>

Appendix one
Application process - comments

The votes were in no way fair and after speaking to several parents i was told they were being bullied into voting for XX

The whole process was unfair and a fix if truth be told , there was enough money to support the smaller projects but with the amount XX requested it was never going to be fair

Too much given to the causes that won more evenly distributed a cap on money allocated to each cause.

Unlike other grant requests, there is no requirement to include the available funds (bank details) that the organisation has access to. Similarly, there is no cap on the amount you can request. This opens the application up to large grant requests from organisations that may already have good reserves of money i.e. do they need the grant?

We did a lot of publicising about it ourselves and many people hadn't heard about it so it took a lot of explaining. Hopefully with every application, more of the general public will know about the funding availability and it will get easier for people just to vote.

We were given guidelines (from councillors) on who could apply and for what reason etc - then after we applied these goal posts were moved and the exact reasons they told us we could apply with were rejected for these reasons- yet other applications were allowed for the same reasons we were rejected we felt its not what you know but who you know to get further up the funding tree!

Yes. The A4 application form format was too large and unwieldy to be easily put into the ballot box slot, and the instruction given not to fold the form if being placed in the ballot box, seemed in contradiction to being allowed to fold the form if one was going to post it.

Appendix two

If you didn't submit an application please tell us why

Respondents that didn't submit an application were asked why that was the case. The responses are listed below:

Already lots of good groups in XX had applied so I thought that one or two would receive a fair share of the pot- how wrong I was!
As a small Community Council we felt the voting process was biased towards bigger communities and no matter how worthwhile our project may be towns with larger populations would vote for their local project. Any bidding by small councils has to be carefully considered. We start with less resources of both time and expertise. If the process is long and complicated and ends in failure it leads to frustration and apathy and deters future applications. In general the time-lag between putting forward a proposal and completion can be quite daunting. I would like to see a slightly more generous yearly grant given upfront so that individual CCs can initiate and finish small projects on their own. Every time a CC fails in a process it diminishes the credibility of the organisational structure in the eyes of the community and reduces the chance of people wanting to participate or engage in Community Councils in the future.
Because a) we didn't know about it early enough and b) because we do not live in a town which would clearly win every time. This is totally unfair to us small rural communities.
Because we like to be self-sufficient!
Bid on another groups application
By the time we heard about this opportunity, it was too late to prepare a bid. We would have liked to submit an application and hope there could be more notice in future.
Couldn't possibly expect to compete in such an unfair way of distributing public money.
Did not think a performance would qualify for funding.
Didn't have awareness at the time that schools could have submitted a bid in partnership
Didn't know about it
Didn't really know what it was all about
Didn't have a project.
Didn't get enough notice to consider or cost a suitable bid
Didn't have a suitable project planned
Didn't know about it
Didn't need anything
Didn't need anything
Didn't need to.
Do not need funding for anything at the moment

Appendix two
If you didn't submit an application please tell us why

Don't belong to any groups
XX didn't seem to know about this till all the money has been given out.
Found out too late to get a robust bid put together
XX were linked with the 2 applications from XX. The XX didn't submit anything specific in our name.
XX did not have any projects which met the criteria
I am an individual
I am an individual member of the public who voted.
I am not a member of a group that was in need of funds at the time.
I am not a member of any local groups but still interested to hear about funding for them
I am not in a group
I attended council session in XX to find out how it worked - not appropriate to submit as, while I work in the third sector I am not based in SB
I didn't have time to properly think about a project and couldn't get enough people in my group to want to commit to a project
I don't know
I hadn't heard about it until the voting stage.
I haven't heard about the fund before??
I work for the third sector supporting the community
I'm just a local voting for a cause
I'm not in a group
I'm a member of the public. I don't have a group. I would have liked to vote, but the public haven't been well informed about this.
Insufficient time to prepare and submit a viable application
It is not relevant to me.
Lack of resources and insufficient funds for first round of funding
Never knew about
no need to

Appendix two
If you didn't submit an application please tell us why

No point as we do not have enough voters we could call on
No project being planned at present.
Not a part of a project requiring funding
Not appropriate as not in group looking for funding.
Not aware of its existence til after closing date.
Not enough time to research and put together a bid
Not for me
Not in a group
Not involved in appropriate group
Not part of a group
Not part of a group
Not part of a group
Not part of a group but I supported local groups.
Not part of any groups
Not ready
Not ready to apply
Not relevant
Not the right funding at this time
Only just found out about funding
Sceptical that any application from a rural community had any chance of success, bearing in mind that the majority of voting would come from XX with its relatively large population.
Self sufficient
Short time scale
Unsure of type of scheme which would be appropriate or supported
The different groups I was in could not think of a need that met the criteria
The XX community didn't know anything about it until the ballot boxes came out
The majority of the young people I work with are under 16 and therefore not eligible to apply.

Appendix two
If you didn't submit an application please tell us why

There were a few applications from my local area and children's school.
Tight timescale and wrong timing
Total confusion about how to bid and what we could bid for and how it would be evaluated. Also wondering whether as a small community we had any chance anyway, as would be outvoted by larger communities
Very short notice between the fund being open and publicised and open and the closing date. The fact that you cannot bid for any continuing factor is a VERY limiting factor. The fund is only suitable for one-off projects. Not much point in putting in a lot of work for a bid when we are such a small local community and therefore are unlikely EVER to get the most votes. It is not a fair scheme and indirectly discriminates against smaller rural communities. I would like to see a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment that was done both for the fund and the voting system.
Was not requiring funding
Was not sure the procedure, and not very good with form filling.
Wasn't aware of the fund prior to deadline
Wasn't aware of this until after applications needed to be submitted
Wasn't relevant
We are a small and recently established social enterprise based in XX. When we noted that XX were applying, and the results were dependant on votes, we decided that it would not be worth the investment in our time. The voting was not a fair and democratic process since the stakeholders in a XX are going to be much higher than those in a community-based organisation. The award that went to XX for XX is a disgrace. How that application got through based on the priorities and objective of Localities Funding is beyond us. Entirely unfair. We have students in our project who are XX in the XX and reported being 'bullied' into submitting multiple votes by XX. We are very disappointed in the misuse of public funding. That money was not meant to replace the core funding for the renovation of XX. There are small community organisations like XX and XX who working with some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in the area - surely in terms of the community planning priorities then they should have been funded. It was ultimately a popularity contest and not based on the socio-economic impact that the funding is designed for.
We did not have anything planned for any up coming projects, we are now in the discussion process of considering projects that we could submit for the next up and coming Localities bid fund
We did not hear about it before the deadline
We didn't find out about it until after the deadline.

Appendix two
If you didn't submit an application please tell us why

We found out about it too late.
We knew of a distro get application so withheld ours. We were also struggling getting the wording correct to give us the best chance.
We supported others in our locality to help get help
We wanted to assess the structure of the bid process to see how rural applications fared
We were told we did not qualify as we were already established. This does not appear to have been correct information
We were unsure if we could apply or whether the grant was applicable to what we are doing
Weren't ready to apply at the minute

Appendix three Voting process - comments

Respondents were asked if they had any additional comments that they had about the voting process they would like to include. These are listed below:

As said, online was easiest, not sure that some people would vote in shops and locations. More populist charities would secure more votes.
As on the previous page... Multiple votes were easily cast by one person as different postcodes could be used (home, work etc.) and votes cast by paper and electronically. There should have been a cap on the amount each project could apply for. Money could have been assigned proportionally to projects with respect to the number of votes cast.
It was reliant on provision of paper forms to enable voting and ran out in a couple of sites
People could clearly vote more than once so this either needs to be tightened up or allowed to happen.
The number of votes allocated to each voter seemed too many. Perhaps three voted would be more appropriate.
The voting process was open to abuse. For example, having ballot boxes in venues that were themselves applying for funding was unfair. XX won both their bids but I think it is unlikely that the general public would have gone in there to vote as XX is only open when there are youth clubs running. I wonder what the age of some of the people voting in there was.
It didn't seem obvious where to vote and the deadline for votes
Perhaps not clear on number of votes per person. Difference between votes cast and number of voters may require earlier/fuller explanation on one person one post code one vote? There is an issue perhaps when the impact of an application straddles more than one of the 5 areas. Should there be a Borderwide area in addition?
The system seems open to cheating - how do you know who voted (apart from different devices) and whether they were over 16?
Too many opportunities for unscrupulous voting. Saw examples of people involved in bids filling in multiple paper forms presumably voting for their own projects. Difficult for brand new volunteer led projects to gain momentum against established paid staff from organisations that have already established supporters for their overall projects so they have instant further reach into well established communities that support their organisation.
Issue regarding postcodes not being recognised - this was resolved Issue regarding availability if extra ballot papers - this was resolved Issue regarding availability of ballot box (library closing hours) - this was resolved Issue regarding fold / not fold of ballot papers - this was resolved
Many of our issues were resolved and in future this was probably a robust voting process

Appendix three Voting process - comments

Not sure it was fair. Have no association with any of the applicants for funding but seems unfair that most of the funding has gone to a small bidder.
I consider it to be a flawed voting procedure without adequate safeguards to ensure, the entitlement of voters to vote and that those so entitled only voted once for their choices.
More publicity should be given about the locality of the voting boxes and they should all be in place prior to voting
The democratic process doesn't work when local issues are at stake. No matter how excellent or how beneficial a project is people will vote for whatever benefits their Village, their Town or their locality. Allocation of funds by an independent panel, without any stake in the outcome, would be preferable. I would not like to write down what I think of XX receiving £XX. How does this award benefit the many.
Will it be weighted so we have a chance to win a bid in future? If it does not then another system has to be devised, such as allocating fund to each community council to disperse.
An upper limit to the amount bid for - i.e. if pot is £30K, then upper limit on each bid should be £3K (20%), that way more bids get a bit of the money
This system of distributing public money is so unfair to those living in smaller communities.
Is there a way of stopping duplicate votes?
It is an unfair process - most popular does not mean most worthy. It has a lot to do with how socially aware/motivated you are, how good your voting 'campaign' is etc which favours more advantaged/middle class etc. Voting as part of the process, maybe, but not the only determinant.
People just didn't know about it and there was no external advertising where I stay to say where the voting boxes were. You had to know where they were to know where they were.
I think an online vote would suffice. If people really wanted to vote using other methods they could request this from the council?
The voting process appears open to widespread abuse/rigging. There appears to be little to prevent interested parties heavily skewing votes in favour of their projects, online by using different devices, browsers and IP addresses, and on paper by voting in different locations, quoting anyone's postcode.
Didn't appreciate being ambushed when attending a XX at XX and pressurized to vote.
Confusing. Seemed to suggest more than one vote available. Vastly different amounts requested by groups- no guidance on what your vote would mean for each of them
How to stop individuals voting multiple times.

Appendix three Voting process - comments

<p>It seems that XX has done very well from this project. It's a pity other towns couldn't of had done too</p>
<p>The next round needs to have more information on the weighting factors which apparently will be clearer for the next round of applications.</p>
<p>I consider it unfair that there was no cap on the amount applied for as in many of the areas deserving charities lost out as the winners took majority of the allocated funds. I therefore feel that a cap should be applied to all future applications to ensure a fair spread of the funds.</p>
<p>I am not convinced that there were adequate checks to prevent people voting twice for the same project. Also I don't think the guidance made it entirely clear that although one could vote for more than one project, voting twice for the same project was not allowed.</p>
<p>From nominations through to the voting process was not made clear enough ,to advertise it couple of times is not enough ,it was a much fairer way that Area Forum distributed money in the past</p>
<p>I could not find the link to vote online. Might just have been me though</p>
<p>The process is in effect a popularity contest through which SG/SBC abdicate responsibility for allocation of funds to those most in need. This is wrong and in effect it is feasible that those most in need will not receive support due to scale - or lack of perceived kudos.</p> <p>Ar a time when third sector funding is shrinking it would be more appropriate for specialists such as Social workers/ Health workers/ Education to at least sift to ensure that those most in need are targeted.</p> <p>Theoretically the process is skewed towards larger organisations in larger population centres in the public eye - on another matter are there checks to stop repeat voting electronically?</p>
<p>It would appear to be open to abuse, especially the online system, whereby I could have gaily voted numerous times for one project to skew the results.</p>
<p>Sorry but I have not taken part in any of this before</p>
<p>This is the first I knew of it</p>
<p>It's very poor when you know groups were sitting with postcodes and just entering them randomly without owners permission. It did happen I saw it with my own eyes</p>
<p>Easy to cheat</p>
<p>I have no opinion because I didn't know about the voting process. I feel as though swathes of the public have been deliberately kept in the dark and I'm not happy.</p>
<p>I did not find the experience 'user friendly'</p>
<p>The voting process has to be accountable, transparent and easy to identify multiple votes from same individual using various methods, eg. multiple email addresses.</p>

Appendix three Voting process - comments

<p>I think the voting process is much too open to abuse - it is far, far too easy for a single person to cast multiple votes.</p> <p>Simply asking for a valid postcode does not prevent multiple voting, and logging an IP address is no sort of adequate safeguard against this either.</p> <p>It is very difficult to make an informed choice when voting - surely the bids should be available - this is public money after all.</p> <p>This process looks good at a superficial level, and has maybe done some good by raising awareness, but it is patently unfair and entirely inappropriate for anything important.</p>
<p>This was not advertised very well at all</p>
<p>Too many options causing confusion</p>
<p>Wherever there were ballot boxes I.e. cafes etc - you could fill in as many forms as you wanted.</p>
<p>I have heard others express concern that the voting system was open to abuse.</p>
<p>I use a number of SBC facilities on a weekly basis. At no point did anyone point me towards any of the advertisements about the bids or engage with me at all about the process. many people locally hadn't a clue what it was all about. It would be helpful if staff in the places where voting is occurring would actively engage with the public to encourage voting</p>
<p>Voting for local projects divides the community and favours areas that have large populations.</p>
<p>Yes, I believe it is unfair - the locations with the largest populations in each locality have a far better chance of winning the votes as evidenced by three out of four awards in XX going to XX. I would like to see a whole different process for allocating the awards which gives a fairer opportunity to smaller communities</p>
<p>More appropriate name</p> <p>LET US FUND YOUR LOCAL PROJECT VOTE NOW SNOOZE YOU LOSE</p> <p>for instance 🖱</p>
<p>People could vote multiple times if they tried. If you wanted to vote for where you live and where you work you could - I think this was a valid approach. Not sure how you would 'tighten' up the voting process and not put people off all together.</p>
<p>The process was fine, though maybe a bit too focused on on line. Awards though were not. Seems bizarre that many projects got nothing but some were awarded the lions share of available funds. Small amounts can make a big difference. Also issues around reach of the funds across the communities. Consideration should be given to ways of spreading impact.</p>
<p>Found out about it through the school.</p>

Appendix three Voting process - comments

I had thought that voting for local projects should be done by local people and that they should only be able to vote once for each project. Results and populations of specific areas showed that this was not the case.

Voting process what voting process

Although there was an article in the XX unless members of the community read it or visited the XX they did not know they were supposed to be voting

The area I was in won their bids so can't complain. The system in place is open to be abused. I know of a few occasions this happened.

Paper votes -

organiser heard telling XX of XX that if someone doesn't use all 5 votes then to tick the boxes for the school once they hand the form back.

Organiser doing the above at an event to promote the bid.

Online -

out of curiosity I managed to bid twice over the voting period so the system needs looked at.

The online system was briefed by the organiser of the local bid that a different device can be used to conduct multiple postcode votes!!

There MUST be some sort of weighting system introduced, otherwise it is a discriminatory scheme which favours communities with the largest populations. There is no point in small rural communities wasting their time filling in an application as the scheme currently stands.

Its open to abuse

There were people openly admitted online that they were submitting multiple votes and as is, it would appear that 60% of the population of XX voted for XX - surely that would have raised a few eyebrows in itself.

There was a geographical inequality with over 80% of that funding going to XX-based activities. Nothing for XX apart from a small percentage of the small grant (for XX, XX & XX) given to XX. If you look at the SIMD indicators, Free Meals Entitlement and Health Inequalities (all indicators of poverty and need) across XX, XX is the town/area where there is clearly more affluence and less need. The highest concentration of social housing is in XX.

It is a disgrace and I hope that the process is significantly revised for the future.

I think that it was too easy for some voters to fraudulently fill out applications as no proof of identity was required for the voting process except for postcode. I heard rumours that widescale fraud was taking place because of this.

Many people voted a greasy number of times as there was no record of who had voted.

Appendix three Voting process - comments

<p>There should be a fair distribution across the region of those who achieve the awards, that would have been fair. One of the largest towns in the Borders, XX, hasn't been allocated any successful bids. Those who shout the loudest are not necessarily those who have the best bids but that appears to have been the case, I hope those who were unsuccessful were given feedback as to why their bid for funding wasn't good enough for locality funding. If not they should have and the public should have access to the general reasons too.</p>
<p>Local availability was poor and there was nothing in XX for paper votes</p>
<p>It seems that the same person can vote more than once if they use different devices and postcodes to vote online</p>
<p>The paper voting form said 'do not fold'. The ballot box slot was shorter than the short side of A4. Idiotic!</p> <p>Multiple voter fraud was possible. A five person household vs a single person household. Internet & paper votes from same person.</p> <p>Some organisations thought £5k was maximum, yet one org asked for nearly the whole pot.</p> <p>XX is huge!</p>
<p>I think the funding should have been capped and spread more evenly. Also would like to see if postcodes of voters were checked</p>
<p>We were not aware of the system or how to access</p>
<p>I saw bids on Facebook and Twitter. Followed link but could not vote.</p>
<p>As I've said. If the total available for a district is say £30,000 then each project is only allowed to ask for no more than £3,000.</p> <p>Fairness all round. No one area get a huge amount!</p>
<p>Too long</p>
<p>The voting process is an unfortunate way of assessing the validity of any particular project, it might have been better to have that process as part of the overall award as some projects that were probably in need of support were maybe less able to engage with the public in a voting process</p>
<p>Knocking on doors and paper vote had the greatest effect with our voters, a lot of over 50s in that group</p>
<p>If you are going to put ballot boxes in public venues the staff manning those areas need to be properly briefed. Some did not have the boxes out in accessible places or knew anything about it for quite a while into the voting period. People were turned away or ended up with spoilt ballot papers because they did not put the post code on.</p> <p>There was also some serious lobbying from some organisations standing by the ballot boxes promoting their organisation.</p> <p>Not all organisations managed to get radio coverage (it seemed to be first come first</p>

Appendix three Voting process - comments

<p>served) or newspaper coverage in spite of providing the information. Whilst everyone needed to champion their bid, this felt like serious lobbying. If the media is to provide coverage they should do so by promoting all the shortlisted projects at the same time in one go and the paper run articles on all the projects. There was clear bias being displayed. Also after the first week this is 'old news' and so the press/radio are no longer willing to cover it.</p>
<p>I think it is adequate for the fund</p>
<p>It took 2 weeks for us to receive the paper votes that we asked for, which delayed our ability to go out and get votes. As I mentioned previously, the forms did not have the 'over 16 years to vote' information on. No being able to cast more than 1 vote per computer was hard in houses where there is only 1 computer/tablet/phone, Not everyone does have these devices. It has been mentioned on FaceBook since that each person could vote 5 times, so therefore voted for the same project 5 times, but this again was not allowed. The lack of clarity on the forms was problematic.</p>
<p>The voting seemed very open to abuse, particularly for the paper forms - it would have been very easy for one person to vote many times, using a variety of eligible postcodes. The distribution of ballot locations was uneven across our area, which disadvantaged groups that did not have a link to a specific place.</p>
<p>It needs to be better controlled to stop duplicate and false voting</p>
<p>It seemed that it was possible to vote more than once.</p> <p>There was lack of clarity about who was eligible to vote. Did you have to live in the area for which the Localities Fund applied? It appeared that one of the projects was encouraging family members who lived outwith the area to use the project site's postcode in order to make their votes count.</p> <p>Were the decisions about whom to award finding to made simply on the basis of number of votes cast or was any discretion applied?</p> <p>Was the amount given to any one project determined simply according to ratio of votes achieved?</p> <p>There were several aspects of the voting process which lacked transparency.</p>
<p>If this process tells us anything it is that you can take a horse to water but cant make it drink, as the saying goes. Having had online and face to face discussions about this with quite a few people I am more than ever convinced that there are a huge number of people, particularly in XX, who simply do not engage with what is going on around them. This is particularly evidenced by the disappointing outcome of the vote for XX causes, who were spectacularly beaten by XX. That, in my view, is the bigger issue. Process is process, but knowing the process even exist is something else.</p>
<p>I just think it was grossly unfair and a pointless exercise.</p>
<p>Wasn't fair and took a lot of time and energy for it to be guaranteed you were not win</p>
<p>The voting process would appear to be open to misuse. A single post code can have a large number of addresses, each with several potential voters living at each address - how is this checked? Similarly, each voter can vote for up to 3 projects.</p>

Appendix three Voting process - comments

The paper voting form and on-line system has a number of projects identified by the organisation name rather than the project name - e.g. our project was identified as XX rather than XX which would have given people a better understanding of what the grant was for. The name used on the ballot form should be approved by the originator before publishing.

Allotting the funds by area means that smaller communities find it hard to compete with large towns. Better to apportion the funds across the whole of the Borders by population size. e.g Towns, large villages, small villages etc. (similar to Floral Gateway arrangement).

I don't think it was made very clear who can vote and that your postcode was your vote. I also think there was room for voting more than once for one thing - so possibly a name and address should have been required to ensure voted occurred only once . It was confusing that you could vote twice.

With this in mind maybe a financial incentive to vote would be good - £100 winner for each ballot. (take it off the allocated funding and make more people have an added reason to vote) . Be in it to win it mentality !

I found the bidding process to be unfairly loaded against multiple smaller charities based in one locality bidding against one charity based in one locality. As an example, all of the XX community naturally voted for their one charity to win a large amount of the fund, whereas smaller charities based in one locality, such as XX, bidding for smaller amounts of the fund, lost out because of the smaller portion of votes being allotted to each charity by the XX community. It would have been more of an across-the-board support for all the bidding charities/organisations to be given an equal portion of the funding, which would help everyone in working toward achieving the projects they were financially applying/bidding for.

A very flawed system open to abuse.

The process was far to open to multi voting by individuals.

You should only be able to vote once. You could vote several times online by using a different device and to allow multiple paper votes as well is not right. Online and paper votes should ask for your name and address so that you can only vote once. Also, there were not enough places to cast your paper votes.

The paper system was open to abuse in that anybody could fill in post codes and votes if they so chose, and there did not appear to be a checking process. Appreciate that such voting systems are difficult to control but tweaking is definitely required

We made three requests for paper voting forms.
We received nothing following the first 2 requests
On the 3rd request we collected them from SBC HQ - this was 2 weeks before closing date.
Many of our potential voters (those who would have benefited from the funding) do not have digital access or ability so paper voting would have been best suited for them.

Requested ballot papers on numerous occasions and only received them the week the voting finished. Feel that the voting process was open to misuse as only post code was required, not house number or signature.

Appendix three Voting process - comments

<p>I believe there should be one vote per person. With three votes a community can band together to support each other's project.</p>
<p>When I went into the swimming pool at XX to vote on the Wed 7th February there was no ballot box, forms or information. I asked staff who then said words to the effect off "oh is that what all this is back here" and proceeded to go behind their desk/office area and pull out the ballot box etc, so for the first week there was not a single vote cast at the pool because the staff failed to put the box, papers and information out on display for the public.</p>
<p>It seems like a system completely open to abuse demonstrated by the results of the first round.</p> <p>An extraordinarily unfair method of distributing fund not based on need but on popularity</p>
<p>How did you ensure it was fair ie that people weren't just clicking and repeating the vote from any postcode in the area? And/or doing the same with paper copies too?</p>
<p>Its too easy to manipulate. Availability of voting forms - not limited, but online voting limited to one vote per device. But again, multiple devices = multiple votes. Difficult to vote for projects not in your own area.</p>
<p>The system is open to abuse and appears to be little more than a popularity contest. I wonder if this money might have been better spent elsewhere, perhaps on fixing the increasingly awful roads?</p>
<p>Why was the voting split into area? Not everyone wants to vote for a project in their residential area The online voting defaulted to the area where people lived (postcode) . It made it confusing.</p> <p>Also, the system is open to abuse. A vote can be made on line and on paper by the same voter, as well as voting on different appliances. In theory one person could make 4, 5 or more votes.</p> <p>Equally, by claiming to live in a certain postcode, anyone ANYWHERE can cast a vote. Meaning that family & friends living hundreds of miles away could be voting when they don't even live in the Borders.</p> <p>My feelings are that this has been going on and that the results are well skewed. I don't know what the answer to this is, but I'm sure that someone is sufficiently technically brained to work something out to prevent this happening.</p>
<p>Very unfair as there was probably unfair (extra) voting in households - or just cheating</p>
<p>The voting process was massively open to fraud and other abuses. Concerns were raised with SBC when the forms were released and these concerns were dismissed. Concerns were raised throughout the process, which also seem to have been ignored. Concerns include: the information on the green forms was wholly inadequate; having only to enter a postcode for a paper vote to be registered and counted is unacceptable and open to abuse, the final results seem to suggest that almost 60% of the total population of XX voted for the winning project - this should ring alarm bells at SBC as it is inconsistent with other public voting processes; projects went forward to public vote which seemed to be in breach of the application guidelines, eg XX; this should have been an exercise in participatory budgeting but the voting process turned it into a popularity contest which worked against projects from small villages unable to amass the number of votes compared to a large town; the process has resulted in funding for 3 projects in XX and</p>

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Voting process - comments

only one in the rest of XX which again demonstrates the limitations of the voting process. I could go on!!

Appendix four

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

Respondents were asked if they had any general comments that they would like to include. These are listed below:

<p>We only asked for a very small amount and all things considered a tiny charity like ours which is working with very excluded people is unlikely to take the public's popular vote. we entered into it fairly sceptically. We do feel disappointed as we feel it is a shame that charities have to ask for public money in a voting system. There must be a less expensive way to allocate money, the admin and so on seem a lot of work.</p> <p>We would probably not bother again, as in our experience obtaining council money is not an easy thing, so the energy we used up is better placed on more useful things. feel a bit sad, that bidding has to take place for very worthwhile charities.</p>
<p>The event at the Burgh Hall was very poorly attended by the public.</p>
<p>Awards to be capped at £5,000</p>
<p>Make it clear that an individual project could bid for the whole of the amount allocated to an area. Many were under the impression that £5k was the maximum you could apply for!</p>
<p>There should be a cap on the amount people can apply for. Or those who are applying for large amounts need to get a much higher percentage of the vote to be successful. Eg, in XX, for example, 10 groups could have had 6K each but instead, XX & XX took £XXK between them, leaving only 2 more groups to get anything at all. Even worse, in XX, XX got the lot, leaving nothing for the other 2 groups, who had almost as any votes. Participatory budgeting must represent the community and this process did not.</p>
<p>I think I have already said my tuppence worth earlier on BUT in the wrong section. Sorry</p>
<p>Such a strange title. Tells you very little. People that came to the presentations at Burgh Hall in Peebles didn't know why they were there or what it was about.</p>
<p>The name of it is a bit 'jargon', and doesn't really mean anything to me when I first read it so it just went over my head and it didn't really catch my attention</p>
<p>Well done to all staff concerned.</p>
<p>Apart from the inherent unfairness to small communities, it would make it fairer if individual community councils were give a share of the money to distribute amongst their communities, either by simple application or a much more localized vote.</p>
<p>Good idea though having really large bids means the cash can get swallowed up by one or two projects.</p>
<p>Great idea in principal. A change to voting system as I suspect multiple unscrupulous votes cast. Too easy and tempting for those inclined to cast illegitimate votes.</p> <p>Set a £5k limit to applications so winner does not take it all. Shared around more projects.</p> <p>Consider a final panel decision to address other possible imbalances.</p> <p>Ban any applicant if vote rigging suspected. Should encourage a higher standard of behaviour.</p>

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

Consider a panel assessed category for brand new projects so those only just starting up get a chance to fund their projects even before they have a chance to build a supportive community around their projects. Hard to get people to vote for an abstract idea!

I felt a bit concerned by the fact that in XX nearly £XX was given to two projects in one small geographical area. (It would be good learning for the rest of us to know how they managed to get so many votes!). Seriously though when one project asks for a very large amount in comparison to other projects and then if they are successful it leaves very little money for any other winners. I know the idea is the public are voting but I think there must be ways of making things more equitable, perhaps by capping the amount that can be awarded or by making awards relative to community size or something like that.

It's great that the money is available anyway and we will certainly want to bid again if we get the opportunity as funding is so tight for voluntary organisations.

Although the community vote ideal has merits, I feel radio borders should have covered every project and not been selective. We asked several times for radio birders to cover our project and they didn't.

Too few projects benefitted from the available funding - with the XX receiving a total of £XX.

Feel strongly that too few groups benefitted as the XX got 40+ % of the sums claimable which did smaller bids out of much needed funding

I think that the available funds should have been spread more widely

I consider that there should be a cap on the amount that can be applied for as it is a totally unfair distribution of tax payers funds that enables so few bids to earn so much at the expense of other deserving charities.

This should be sorted out in the future stages as it must be bordering on a misappropriation of tax payers funds.

How the results benefit the health and well being of the majority of Borderers is beyond my comprehension.

The funding pot should have been shared out more equally. It was utterly ludicrous to give one charity the lions share.

It was evident that voting was extremely low so there must be a better process to devise to encourage people to vote.

£XX for XX votes does not warrant that amount of money

Charities I spoke to said that they were given no clear guidance of how the money would be divided up so we're in limbo trying to work out who would get what. It was described as a shambles by one charity which doesn't reflect well in SBC and made me feel relieved that I hadn't applied.

You should enable charities to apply for up to a maximum of £5000 to ensure it is much fairer.

There is room for improvement.

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

Consider the rural communities who are desperately in need of support.
I am horrified that of the £XX for XX and XX, £XX went to one small village. Giving the first and second placed projects 98% of the total fund is frankly stupid and the fund should give out grants capped at £5k per project for the projects placed one to six. This needs a complete rethink or you will start to see resentment in the community with some projects deemed greedy taking so much of the small fund and I am sure that is not what you thought may happen when this project started.
Please rethink. This is system is simply not fair.
See previous comments about voting being an unfair process, giving advantage to those in society already advantaged.
Biased against small rural communities who only have limited people voting whereas towns have more voters for their projects especially school projects where the parents all vote
The voting system seems perverse and it open to abuse. Smaller places may be put off taking part if it is all about the number of people you can get mobilised to vote for you. It wasn't advertised enough. Too reliant on social media and online information. Not clear what projects could be funded. Why is it only groups that can ask for funding when individuals could have decent ideas as well. Should be a limit on the amount of funding you can ask for. Should ensure the money doesn't all get awarded to one village the next time.
It was well promoted and straightforward enough.
I'm all for projects being proposed from the grassroots, but having a public vote on them (which is open to abuse) represents an abrogation of SBC's responsibility to take a strategic view of services in the region. The money being spent on these projects would be better spent on preserving bus services eg from Selkirk direct to the BGH.
Should be more information regarding the projects. Why does XX need XX when we already have one?
I still don't really understand what is being offered/voted on
Being able to vote is great
Allocations in our area was not best use of funds as XX projects from a XX received almost all of the funding. This could have better supported 6 projects across the area.
Too much money went to one bid locally ? There were many bids that were quite small but would have made a big difference. The XX got money but is XX, not a charity
I'm sure that the Fund can be wider advertised for the next round. Don't know if there are databases of local clubs, organisations etc that can be emailed and who are likely to vote electronically, but this is the way to go.
Better advertising.

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

<p>The voting forms I feel are open to abuse as the only information asked for is the postcode perhaps the address could be added for additional security.</p>
<p>I think it is unfair that the greediest project got the full £XX they asked from whereas other projects requesting more modest amounts got nothing. There should have been a lower limit on the amount applied for so that more projects would have benefitted. Alternatively there could be a system to require more votes for a larger grant or discounting votes where more money is applied for. (On the other hand this might be difficult for voters to understand.)</p> <p>There is suspicion that there was cheating going on, e.g. multiple votes by the same people. This may not have been the case but I believe that if this process is to continue, it is necessary to provide assurance to the public that it is fair.</p>
<p>Everything needs to be made clearer and a wider range of groups and organisations need to be made eligible .</p>
<p>As per last section - to turn it into a popularity competition is wrong - input in selection is needed from professionals to ensure effective use of money - an example - Child poverty needs more focus than landscaping in these difficult times.</p> <p>I am aware that SG dictate the format - there needs to be discussion over this.</p>
<p>This is a great idea distributing funds to local communities for projects they really want to see. It also then puts more accountability on those groups to deliver.</p> <p>Will there be an update provided for how the projects are getting on - maybe every 6 months or even annually?</p> <p>Will successful projects be able to apply for future funding or will there be a block on them entering for a period of time to allow other projects a chance at future funding.</p>
<p>I was disappointed to see that one of the bids, if successful, would harm a local businessman/shop keeper in XX. I think individuals/groups bidding should be made to consider the impact of their bid, or the council should ensure the bid meets eligibility criteria. I am sure the person who came up with the idea for the group's bid would personally gain (by saving himself some £s) if the bid was successful....</p>
<p>More publicity</p>
<p>Spread the money around more evenly maximum amount per group to around 3-5k It's not like SBC to make a hash of something no faith in you whatsoever</p>
<p>XX has disproportionate amount of money</p>
<p>Yes. Publicise it next time! Don't rely on posters and newspapers and social media.</p>
<p>Make the procedure simpler eg. only one vote per household (ie address) and avoid multiple votes</p>
<p>Not much thought has gone into the processes of this voting system to make it accountable and fool proof.</p>

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

<p>Think the monies should have a limit and the total split into 3 or so lots, we have had the situation of one XX having 98% of the total monies, fair play to them for drumming up the votes, but would be good to see it spread a bit more.</p>
<p>Good idea.</p>
<p>Money was not handed out very fairly</p>
<p>Need a clearer way to vote and explain how voting works</p>
<p>I think the X factor style voting is unfair on less glamorous groups. Some groups would never stand a chance of making the final few. For example a school with hundreds of teenage pupils, tech savvy staff, and loyal parents would obviously be able to muster more votes than a small doing something less 'exciting' like meals on wheels.</p>
<p>Should be judged on merits not by public numbers game. Local democracy doesn't work when the minorities get over run by masses.</p>
<p>A great way to inform the public of the fund, its applicants and the outcome, especially if done online. Makes voting easy and quick, can be done at home.</p>
<p>A good idea but very unfairly weighted in favour of larger communities</p>
<p>Involve school participation</p> <p>Kids will involve parents</p>
<p>Would rather have seen smaller amounts of money shared to more projects rather than just a few projects getting all the money.</p>
<p>There should be a Borders wide option. I think this is a start to community empowerment with budgets. It's a good start to the process. I hope it makes a positive change to the areas.</p>
<p>As before, funding will be concentrated in areas favoured by specific councillors and rural areas will receive little.</p>
<p>I think each bid should be limited to a certain amount i.e. £10000. For one bid to get the majority of the funds seemed unfair. It would be nice to see funds spread more.</p>
<p>There seemed to be some confusion about how many votes people got</p> <p>And could they only vote for projects in their own area. People could have given the wrong postcode for example if they wanted to vote in another area. How was the process verified.</p>
<p>Is it really needed why not put it through the many existing grant funders</p>
<p>I think there should be a way (in the overall process , after all the ' rounds') of the different areas all getting a slice of the cake. Very hard for some groups to campaign for their cause.</p>
<p>It seems like a good idea but all communities should be given an option to apply</p>
<p>The voting system in my opinion has been violated. Proving this fact would be difficult due to no names attached to the online vote or on the paper votes.</p>

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

<p>I know several in the community that never voted for the larger funded bid but voted for the smaller one due to in taking so much of the fund. Yet there were still more votes for the larger fund.</p> <p>Happy that my kids that go to XX will benefit from the funds but feel that the spread of funding is currently unfair.</p>
<p>How will it be made fair and open, will assessment ratings and scores be published?</p>
<p>It is an unfair system as it currently stands. Need to offer some opportunity for communities to develop local services that will make a difference but that can have continuing, not just one-off funding.</p>
<p>Its ridiculous that instead of spreading the funding evenly one or two bids can take the lions share and all the other bidders miss out! A very Tory way to do things</p>
<p>Firstly, great to see people getting the chance to vote on these initiatives and the council should be commended for trying to get border locals more involved.</p> <p>However, as a resident of a smaller community XX, slightly concerned that bids may lose out to bigger population centres, such as XX or XX due to sheer pressure of numbers in a process decided on by bids with the largest numbers, (appreciate this may actually happen in practice). As a consequence, it may make it harder to encourage bids from smaller places in the future and may lead to a greater sense of inequity between large centres and their smaller neighbours, as to the perceived level of SBC provision of services and support across these communities.</p>
<p>It was a really good process and some very worthwhile causes received much needed funding, and good advertising regarding the work that they do.</p>
<p>Already highlighted that we believe that it is an appalling mismanagement of public money which has not been dispersed to address the issues and priorities intended.</p> <p>Skewed to XX, a XX taking £XXk of the pot and XX benefiting from over 50% of money. Ironically this fund has perpetuated the geographic, social and economic inequalities faced by XX. It is fundamentally flawed and gave rise to a promotion of corruption of a voting process since all that was required was a postcode.</p> <p>Very very disappointing. SBC's management of Public Money is negligent in this instance.</p>
<p>Advertise very early</p> <p>Expect a lot more applications next time</p>
<p>It is a great idea but the voting process needs to be more stringently policed to prevent fraud.</p>
<p>it is not very widely well known to the public in general</p>
<p>The voting structure disadvantages rural communities and under the current structure I see no local projects from our community having any chance of success. if the system isn't amended there will be no interest and no schemes put forward</p>
<p>Money should be more fairly distributed around area eg. Specific amount for each town or district.</p>

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

I think it's absolutely appalling that one group can basically scoop the entire pot of money, especially when that group is bidding from XX, for example, where there ought to be different funds available and surely access to funds already from the Local Authority rather than be effectively poaching from small, local organisations who don't have access to the likes of a XX (XX or similar fundraising committee) and huge XX to canvass votes from. I'd urge you to consider limiting grants to a maximum of £5,000 or at least divvy the entire pot of money out according to proportion/percent of votes received. I saw two organisations get an equal percent of the vote, yet only one of them got a bit of cash. This seems really unfair but the worst is the greedy ones that went for a big whack of cash when others only asked a modest amount. Please make it more equitable next time, thank you.

Just to say - I am not involved in any bids, just an interested observer.

Stop stunts like this and work with COSLA to challenge ideological austerity from central gov.

Focus on creation of secure jobs from XX to the sea. That's a big and important job.

This was amateurish nonsense.

It would feel fairer if groups could only apply for a max amount so that more groups received money. Surely a group getting some funding is better than none.

The entire process is decisive and should not be repeated. Whilst the weighting towards smaller communities, on paper, looked a positive move, the result showed this was over-done: two communities receiving over 95% of funding available in their area.

Just make the dispersal of funds even to all.

Smaller communities had no way in winning the bids they put in for. Fighting against a huge population of other people isn't fair! There should be thought put into how small rural areas who really deserve a share of it get votes out through!

Misguided

I think it unfortunate that through the process some projects were awarded significant amounts thus leaving less available for the other applicants, could you consider a cap on application amounts

Like anything once you have done it, the easier to understand it is and explain to others

Our organisation was successful and received funding and were geared up for the public vote. However, if you are a small organisation and not structured in such a way as to compete with established charities and organisations I would consider it a difficult process.

Some serious thought needs to go into just how much constituted groups can go for.... all groups even.....

I don't want to pick on XX XXk but it highlights shortcomings. If you look further down the list you will find registered charities and Community Interest Companies that rely on funding from external sources to survive. The Localities Bids Fund should've been a real shot in the arm for them. Instead they see a XX (statutory provision) get more than the lions share of the pot. To even apply for that much in the first place I feel is short sighted and slightly 'out of order' and more to the point, certainly is NOT a capacity building project in my book.

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

Thank you for organising this. It is good to get communities and people involved in developing useful local projects but, for the next time, the voting system needs to be more rigorous and there needs to be more transparency about how it is applied.

Our particular project was not given any funding; we were not surprised by this since there were several excellent projects applying for funding but we were surprised that the XX project received so much funding.

The day at the Burgh Hall provided a good opportunity to meet people doing good community work but the numbers of general public attending were low. More publicity on the street to catch people on the day would have been useful.

While a community say in how SBC money is spent is to be welcomed, perhaps guidelines about which projects can apply, so that they fall into priority areas and are in line with overall SBC strategy, would be good.

As XX, we were bitterly disappointed by the outcome, which leaves us in a precarious position in terms of funding. The one thing that is very evident from the results is that large bids do sometimes win, and whilst that is great for them it leaves other good causes out in the cold. Had XX not mobilised themselves the way they did there would now be five happy projects in XX. To leave a whole county effectively unsupported can't be good use of the money. There should be a cap on the size of each bid, allowing a bigger spread of the available cash. Another anomaly thrown up by the results is that of those who applied, XX is now the only one not receiving financial support from SBC. That can't be a fair outcome.

Why can't all these groups, who I acknowledge all deserve some funding, be allocated a percentage of the funding available. Surely that is fair to everyone.

I carried out an analysis of the voting results, and put all of the results in total votes order across the whole of the Borders, not just by area. This resulted in a total of 23 projects receiving a grant as opposed to 18 projects. Of these, 10 new projects (with smaller votes) would have received a grant.

Was there anything we should or could have done better? We were up against a XX which was always going to win as it covers XX. We are one small town project which is very important to us in XX but not to the wider community.

Very bad information on who could apply and who couldn't - also our group would have permanently helped a lot of people in public and groups in the area but we were told it would only benefit our group so they refused it

I think it would be a better idea to remove the "bidding" aspect of the Localities Bid Fund, and use the fund as a Localities Fund to be evenly distributed to each charity/organisation applying for a portion of the fund.

I would like to understand the criteria used to select suitable projects - the project which have taken the major share of the first round of funding all seem to be XX.

The guidelines said correctly that statutory bodies could not apply but groups associated with SBC were permitted to apply for grants which would directly create assets for SBC. At least one winner has a constitution which passes assets to SBC if it is wound up!

More info should be provided on each applicant and their application e.g. where they operate,

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

<p>do they plan to use the money for staff and if so how will they continue to pay staff at end of Grant.</p> <p>The fund should not be top sliced for Borderline projects as this is too big a locality for this fund.</p> <p>An open meeting at which applicants make a presentation of their project should be held. There should be a cost limit on project promotion costs.</p>
<p>There should be a limit each bid can receive i.e. £5000. For one bid to receive the majority of the available money is wrong.</p>
<p>SBC staff involved in the process were helpful and professional. Their communications to me were excellent and regular.</p> <p>I think that it is important to let all applicants know the money is not automatically granted just by applying. Although it's disappointing to read some negative comments on social media following the first round, the process was clear.</p>
<p>~Think it should be different categories and possibly amounts- not areas.</p> <p>Looking at the vast range of projects applying - there is no way these could be compared with each other.</p>
<p>Would be better if bids were grouped into "types" rather than localities. i.e. transport for groups who wish vans or a bus or venues for groups who wish to hire for events or health and welfare for example.</p>
<p>Merely reflects the population. Small communities have no chance and voting is seen as a complete waste of time.</p>
<p>I feel that the bulk of the funds should not be given to one or two applicants rather than funding being spread through the other applications</p>
<p>I believe the project description should allow greater scope for explanation.</p>
<p>It's flawed. The voting process was open to manipulation and so potentially wasn't a true representation of how the local communities voted.</p>
<p>If you are an organisation in a small community it may be difficult to compete with the voting power of communities with large populations. This may concentrate funding in the larger towns.</p>
<p>It seems very unfair that certain organisations (who had submitted a bid) had a ballot box in their building eg XX</p> <p>.</p>
<p>As previously stated I think this is a very unfair cumbersome process for delivering very small grants to much needed projects. The voting system is entirely open to abuse and winning projects either come from areas where there are larger communities or those most organised to get out their vote. In essence a popularity contest when projects should be judged by an independent panel based on need, the contribution they make to the community and the people to serve. How are the unglamorous but much needed projects and those in small rural communities ever to win in this process? Also, why should very stretched community groups largely run by volunteers have to expend so much time and energy on campaigning for</p>

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Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Localities Bid Fund?

<p>votes? If the resources spent on administering this scheme were spent on community projects themselves there would be greater satisfaction all round!</p>
<p>Please limit the amount of funding that can be bid for. The schools bidding for large amounts are always going to succeed as they have a massive numbers advantage to begin with and extended families make it even easier to succeed.</p>
<p>Yes, it's rubbish!</p>
<p>I think it's a fantastic opportunity and would hope to see it continue, but with much stricter safeguards.</p>
<p>Think there should be a maximum amount you can bid for. The XX community only XX people got funding as the first place asked for £XX think that if there was a cap more people could benefit from the funding.</p>
<p>Voting system I believe was abused</p>
<p>I would like to know what the cost benefits of this exercise in other words what did it cost for all the paperwork, organisation ,freepost, etc to distribute the funds.</p>
<p>When the fund was announced the amount available was £100,000. Projects prepared bids based on that expectation. SBC, after the application process had been completed, said that only £45,000 was available. This is unsatisfactory.</p>

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Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

Respondents were asked if they thought there was anything that SBC should do differently for the next round of the Localities Bid fund. These are listed below:

<p>Not really, it will be interesting to see which charities obtain funding in the next round and whether those already successful can apply again.</p> <p>Very pleased with those that won, but again, it is a lottery and not particularly placed on best practice but for those through to the selection process, it is about the general mood of the public whether or not charities get a fund, this does not seem particularly ethical all things considered</p>
<p>Cap the amount projects can apply for.</p> <p>Assign the money proportionally to votes rather than on a "first past the post" system.</p> <p>Spend much less on SBC administration, allowing more money to go to projects.</p> <p>Tighten up the voting system so that it is a "one person, one vote" system.</p>
<p>It was difficult to get those eg who have children at school in area but live out of catchment as they were unable to vote - not sure how you get round it. Also how can there be parity for those small projects which are never going to get the same number of votes</p>
<p>Enhance the marketing throughout the whole process to increase reach and in turn public engagement. A lot of people didn't know anything about the Localities Bid Fund and it was therefore up to the different projects to advise which due to a lack of understanding meant people were led to vote for projects without any knowledge of the other projects / opportunities.</p>
<p>Clarify who can bid and what the project maximum will be.</p>
<p>There should be a cap on the amount people can apply for. Or those who are applying for large amounts need to get a much higher percentage of the vote to be successful. Eg, in XX, for example, XX groups could have had £6k each but instead, XX & XX took £XXk between them, leaving only XX more groups to get anything at all. Even worse, in XX, XX got the lot, leaving nothing for the other XX groups, who had almost as any votes. Participatory budgeting must represent the community and this process did not.</p> <p>Do not put ballot boxes in venues who are applying for funding. Maybe just make it all online - the ballot boxes were definitely open to abuse.</p>
<p>Limit amount of money you can bid for.</p> <p>Change the title to something more obvious.</p> <p>Make voting simpler.</p>
<p>I think it has been grossly unfair in some areas where one project snatched practically the entire sum of money available. It comes across as very greedy considering most groups only asked for a very modest amount. I'd say that the money ought to be shared out according to percentage of votes overall - that way at least 'something' will go to everyone who made the effort to apply. Or maybe cap the maximum the groups can apply for to £5000.?</p> <p>I'd also question why XX are allowed to bid when they have access to many, many resources</p>

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Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

<p>already.- our Council Tax already fund them! It doesn't seem a level playing field for the tiny other groups who are up against the might of big XX. Just a thought.</p>
<p>There must be an upper limit on the amount that can be applied for. I suggest 20% of the total pot.</p> <p>Please give consideration to the localities. While council wards are perhaps easier for voting, some of the wards are not natural districts.</p>
<p>Needs a second run as is with perhaps only minor changes arising from evaluation returns.</p> <p>Getting used to the format needs time to settle.</p> <p>Links between this source and other SBC grant sources needs to be set out to help local decisions on which source is best for applicant.</p>
<p>As above, give the money to Community Councils to distribute.</p>
<p>Consider the voting process.</p>
<p>Make the ballot papers clearer that you have 3 votes</p> <p>Make ballot boxes available in more central locations with better opening hours</p> <p>Offer more ballot papers to projects initially</p>
<p>Restrict maximum funding per project to £5000</p>
<p>Restrict max bid to 5k</p>
<p>Great to make cash available but should be more widely dispersed</p>
<p>Place a cap on the amount that can be applied for 20% of the total would be a good level as it would provide a good amount to at least 5 candidates.</p> <p>Implement a better way of ensuring fairness in the voting procedure.</p>
<p>I do not know enough about this to give an opinion</p>
<p>Ensure that the fund is dispersed evenly amongst the population.</p>
<p>Absolutely - cap grant awards at £5k - which is a damn site fairer than two projects being awarded 98% of the fund. This needs the council and councillors to take a good hard look at this idea and make it fair.</p>
<p>An upper limit to the amount bid for - i.e. if pot is £30K, then upper limit on each bid should be £3K (20%), that way more bids get a bit of the money</p>
<p>Give plenty of notice to enable preparation of strong applications.</p>
<p>If an area has no bids, can money be moved to other localities to allow more winners?</p>
<p>Projects to receive funding decided on merit, not popularity.</p>

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Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

<p>Pretty much everything -advertise better, have better guidance on what to do, award more fairly, come up with a different voting system, limit amount that a project can ask for, award percentages of what is asked for if the bid is large, split the money over the area so each part of the area gets a chance to get something</p>
<p>Online vote only. Maybe cap the amount a project can bid for?</p>
<p>Get ideas from local groups, but for SBC to take responsibility for deciding what gets approved.</p>
<p>More communication to local groups regarding applying for projects</p>
<p>More publicity to clubs, organisations etc</p>
<p>Cap bids to £8,000 to ensure more projects will benefit in each locality.</p>
<p>Cap the amount of funding that can be applied for by each group. XX receiving that much money is ridiculous, Think about how much good it would have done being split between 5/6/7/8 projects.</p> <p>Also, voting process seems unfair and puts groups looking for money for older people at a distinct disadvantage. XX has a captive audience in the families of its pupils and could easily send a letter home with each child and member of staff and get the parents/relatives to vote. Hundreds of young and tech savvy voters at their fingertips. How exactly could a group for older people compete with that?</p>
<p>Lots of publicity</p>
<p>Yes make sure everyone knows so we have the chance.</p>
<p>Look at the projects and give a maximum of, say 10.000</p>
<p>Limit to amount applied for or other system to assure fairer distribution.</p>
<p>Make it available to more groups and organisations ,it is the same one that get all the money</p>
<p>Ensure that organisations supporting the most vulnerable are there - even if they are small.</p> <p>Remember - some organisations operate in a 'low profile' manner' due to the nature of their work - such as addictions.</p> <p>IMPORTANTLY - in line with the above ensure a split by need relating to SIMD stats - I live in XX - there is less need than there is in XX - I was saddened that the elected reps used this as a vehicle to be seen to support their own wards and that money allocation was by population - rather than focus on real need across SB - XX and XX have more need than XX or XX and should have proportionately more money available - morally a better approach.</p>
<p>It might be helpful if the successful projects could act as mentors for future projects in the bidding process.</p>
<p>See above comment. Eligibility criteria related to potential negative impact on local businesses.</p>
<p>More publicity</p>

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Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

Voting and amount of money oh and please use common sense
I'm flogging a dead horse here, but make sure people know about it.
Make the procedure simpler eg. only one vote per household (ie address) and avoid multiple votes
I think you should share the money in a more fair manner. The winning bidder received well over £XX and 3rd place received only £XX.
Reduce the number of votes per person or alternatively you cannot use more than one vote for the same project.
Scrap it if you cannot be bothered to run it fairly and transparently. MUCH tighter controls on voting. e.g. card or id per household. TOTAL transparency: visibility of bid details, total votes cast, votes per postcode, etc. No single project to secure more than 20% of available fund in its locality.
Maybe give a list of all votes received for each option. This would give an idea of how much more work needs to be done to get more votes. Transparency.
Better info around vote results to be able to see breakdown across the entrants.
Yes split the money More advertising
I think it should be region wide, rather than the different areas, which again can make judging unfair. Perhaps divide the pot into different categories...health, arts, sports, recreation etc?
Abandon this crazy method of allocating public money ...it's not yours to give away in this popularity contest.
Do some issue awareness advertising, guiding people to the online presence. I would even suggest some radio interviews on local democracy telling them how they can have a direct say on where their taxes through the fund will be spent.
Take away the public vote and instead use a panel made up of representatives from across communities
Yes I think it should be shared fairly amongst all charities involved
Bright eye catching posters in shops and schools
Share among more projects
Offer a Borders wide option.
Better geographic and financial reach.

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Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

More communications
Look at ways of ensuring rural areas have some access to funds.
Limit the amount of funds any group can apply for so more groups benefit.
Weighting system to help smaller communities or ring fence a pot of money purely for rural applications
Make sure that the start date is well announced
More clarity on process and regulation.
More balance in relation To amount of funding. More projects could have benefitted if cap on grants
Maybe there should be a cap on the amount that people can receive so that more projects can receive funding..
There needs to be a Borders wide fund too which is maybe a percentage taken from each of the localities.
Address the issue of voting being skewed towards areas of higher population.
Let every household know the full details.
There are rumours about false and multiple votes for projects. Can you prevent any duplicity?
Share campaigning tips from successful bidders of this last round.
More publicity
The voting system needs to be reviewed quickly. It has 100% been violated and the integrity of successful bids should be reviewed!
Brief , brief , brief especially community councils and other representative bodies Ensure smaller communities are not disadvantaged
Change the voting system so that it is weighted for smaller communities. Make recurrent funding a possibility - otherwise this is complete tokenism. we can only have a say in how short term, time limited budgets for specific projects is spent - not continuing Council budgets.
As above set amounts of money given to all applicants instead of dished out to tory chums
Seek the views of the electoral reform society or similar for making the system more equitable
Possibly making people more aware of the application process and closing dates. But don't know how you do that differently, sorry
If SBC is not able to distribute the money based on positive socio-economic impact, then they need to ensure a fair and proportionate voting process.

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Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

Advertise way in advance of deadline, at least 8-12 weeks
Change the voting process so that it is fairer and make sure no one's vote gets misused by someone else. It's a brilliant way to make a real difference to local communities and give them ownership of the funding available and is a shame if it is misused. Please give more notice/ more publicity to local groups about who and what we can apply for long before the application deadline.
Have a fairer distribution of successful bids
Change the voting/ allocation into pots to give rural communities a chance to participate .. whether in our case an 80% XX 20% XX otherwise there wont be any rural participation
Please share the money out better so that more groups can benefit from this resource rather than one greedy group scooping the lot.
Let the Electoral Registration Dept run it.
Have more control over multiple voting
Spread funds more, give other groups more chance
Maybe more info around the different bids
Limit the individual bid amounts. This time around it was unfortunate that only X bids were successful. If the amount was limited to, say, £4,000, then more projects could benefit by definition. There is clearly not a shortage of worthwhile projects to be supported and every one represents a significant effort on the part of small groups/organisations.
It seems unreasonable that one or two projects should take the bulk of the fund eg £XX when several projects could benefit from smaller amounts - perhaps put a upper cap on what can be applied for?
Advertise more
I think either Local Councillors or SBC Officials should take the decision on where funding should be provided. There should be a wider spread of funding to projects.
Make a limit to the amount each project can ask for £3,000 would help get any project up and running. This is important to show fairness to everyone.
Let little places like my village have an equal opportunity in getting a chance of some funds!!!
Abandon it
No other than previous comments
No it works well .our bid was successful so I'm happy ,but we put a load of hard work into it

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Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

Need to brief all concerned with the voting process and what needs to be done.
I think the amount that a group can apply for should be capped at around 6-8k and maybe less for non registered charities, 5K?
Giving a set maximum of around £5,000 would give more projects a chance to win, and help more people. It's a shame that all of the XX money went to projects that lots of children cannot access. If the process allowed more projects to win less money, It would seem a fairer distribution of resources.
Several of the big projects (in terms of amount of funding requested) also had a naturally bigger voting base (e.g. Schools parent council projects and bigger organisations, which can easily harness a large amount of voting power, and also have considerable fundraising capacity). Because of the way the money was allocated, these bigger projects took most of the funds, leaving little for the smaller groups/ projects. However, cumulatively, grant funding more of the smaller groups may have given more benefit than fewer, bigger projects. Recommend that you consider capping the amount of grant received by each group - this would mean smaller groups have more of a level playing field - bigger projects would still get something, but not all of their project costs, but they are likely to have more capacity to fundraisers through other means for the remainder.
There should be a maximum amount that can be granted to an individual organisation so that the pot of money is shared by more organisations.
No, bring it on. We are better prepared than ever.
Yes, change the voting system
Only have smaller projects competing , not allow projects who are already funded heavily
Apportioning the funding by area does make it harder for small communities on the edge of a geographical area from getting sufficient votes. Large communities have an unfair advantage since they have access to a greater number of votes. This is why I think the funding should be apportioned by the size of community, rather than geographical area. I also think any organisation which has already succeeded in obtaining a grant during the first round should be exempt from applying in the next round(s).
More clarity in the voting process More advertising about what it's about More benefits - incentives to vote Full names and address on ballot papers
Don't let councillors vote for against a group because they have a like or dislike with the person putting the claim forward - I felt the councillor who emailed me that my application was refused has a dislike towards me so therefore voted no because of that
Yes! Remove the "bidding" aspect from the fund, and distribute the amount equally among the local charities applying for funding. Each charity does incredibly useful work in their locality and community, and in the light of funding sources being cut each year, it would be of great

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Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

benefit to all the charities/localities if they could all receive a financial portion of the funding pie.
Stop until a suitable voting system is in place.
on facebook
The difference between some of the bids was huge (ie £24,000 up against £650). May be have two tiers of funding, one for less than £5000 and one for over. Small bids usually mean small clubs/groups and do not have the membership/voters to compete with some of the bigger ones.
Introduce categories. Change the voting process. Cap the amounts - give us all a chance of the pickings!
Allocate funds specifically to small communities Break down the size of the area.
Don't let one group take £XX of the money!!! Make groups have a maximum bid of £5000 so more groups/organisations get a share of the money rather than the majority of the money going to one group!
Change the project description criteria and reduce voting to one per person
Yes, sort the voting process so that public money isn't being distributed based on a flawed voting system. We live in a democracy!
There should be a limit on the value of awards to spread the funding. There should be no paper voting. The funding should be split between larger towns and the rural community.
Ballot boxes should only be in public places like libraries, swimming pools etc not in places like XXs
Something to make sure people voting are fairly 'registered' Excellent initiative though. Make more known to groups to apply
I live in one area and take part in a project in another area but it's difficult to vote online as my postcode only brings up the projects in my local area.
Cancel it and invest the money in youth work and mental health support services
Again have a cap on the amount you can bid for. Make it fairer and more chance to help everybody not just one project
Voting system

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Is there anything that you think SBC should do differently next time?

Make sure the voting is process is fair
Encourage the apathy in XX to change
Yes. The voting process needs to be completely re-thought and applications should only be allowed to go forward if they meet SBC guidelines. SBC needs to re-think how this money can be used to support community development and regeneration in line with Locality Plans so that money gets better spread across the region. The Community Grants team need to talk with all applicants this time around, personally and not just by e-survey to ensure that lessons are learned.