

Community Fund 2019/20, Locality Bid Fund 1 & 2 and Participatory Budgeting

A report was taken to Council on 27 08 20, which covered the outstanding Community Fund applications, the evaluation and review of the Locality Bid Fund and Participatory Budgeting.

You can view the full report here:

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=5138&Ver=4>

Here is a summary of the main points of the report:

Community Fund 2019/20 – outstanding applications:

The Community Fund was suspended on 20 March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and staff were deployed to the Community Assistance Hubs (CAH's).

Outstanding Community Fund applications that were submitted before 31st March 2020 are being progressed as follows:

- Borders wide applications will be considered by the Executive Committee
- The Service Director Customer & Communities will approve or decline the 2019/20 Community Fund application applications, subject to the agreement of at least 50% of the Members in the relevant Ward(s)

Evaluation and review of Locality Bid Fund 1 & 2 and Participatory Budgeting:

Analysis and findings

- There was a high level of dissatisfaction within communities and projects regarding the Localities Bid Fund 1 and 2 processes
- It would be challenging to sustain a participatory budgeting fund of this size and type in future due to high levels of resourcing and support required.

Next steps and further development:

Future participatory budgeting funds should consider both the Scottish Government's Evaluation of Participatory Budgeting (PB) Activity in Scotland 2016-18:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/evaluation-participatory-budgetingactivity-scotland-2016-2018/>

and the recommendations from the SCDC review:

- Staff and other stakeholders need to become more familiar with the PB Charter
- Any future PB process should ensure that minority and rural communities are integrated into the process through communication and out-reach work to equitably include them in PB
- Work continues to develop proposals to embed the 1% CoSLA mainstream participatory budgeting agreement, which needs to includes a strategic framework being developed within the Council
- Participatory budgeting at a grass roots level, using a bottom up approach, may also be undertaken within each Area Partnership utilising the Community Fund if desired.