

Current SBC Consultations

South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy 2021 – closes 16th August

The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) is the economic plan for the South of Scotland being progressed by the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP). It has been developed following an extensive period of engagement in early 2021.

You told us back in February what your priorities are for the South of Scotland. We have brought these altogether into our draft strategy, and now we need you to tell us if we have gotten it right

[South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy 2021 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

Christmas 2021 & 2022 School Holiday Proposal – closes 22nd Aug

School holidays are usually set 3 years in advance to allow families and schools to plan ahead. When planning school holiday and inservice dates we must ensure 190 school days for children and 195 days for staff each year. Although the school holiday dates for this coming session were agreed and published several years ago, we have been approached by a number of parents and staff about adjusting them, especially the Christmas holiday dates. Although the dates are similar to neighbouring local authorities, some feel a slightly earlier finish in December would allow more time to enjoy Christmas festivities for children and staff and would be beneficial.

[Christmas 2021 & 2022 school holiday proposal - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

Consultation for Peebles Community Campus

The Virtual Consultation at Peebles High School has been updated with the additional hotspot linking to the Video Script pdf.

<https://eyesiteview.co.uk/peeblescampus/informal-consultation/>

Community Information

Tweeddale Community Assistance Hub

As we move into recovery mode, the work of the Tweeddale Community Assistance Hub continues and weekly community partnership meetings are held every Thursday where partners can update on services and raise issues or concerns. The meetings also provide a platform to share new information and act as a forum for discussion.

Regularly the meetings focus on an issue that has been raised e.g.

- Digital inclusion and isolation.
- Support for young people and families
- Looking at services and venues as we move into recovery mode and mapping what is currently available.

- Discussion on reported anti-social behaviour of some young people in various locations across Tweeddale and looking at different approaches to dealing with this.
- Closure of public toilets in various towns in the area

The most recent meeting provided an opportunity for a presentation on Borders Older People Planning Partnership survey and recommissioning with third sector. Following the presentation there was an opportunity for questions and discussion amongst the group. There was agreement that collaborative partnership working had been hugely beneficial in supporting people in the community and the need to acknowledge the role of communities and resilient communities and to thank people for the volunteering that they have done. The valuable relationships made between communities and the Council was recognised and Ross McGinn representing Innerleithen Resilient Group advised that volunteers from resilience teams feel part of the community and would hope that this could continue when restrictions are lifted.

Outside the Box – Border Buddies

A new guide to setting up a Digital Buddies project, based on our real-life learning.

<https://otbds.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Setting-up-a-Digital-Buddies-Project-What-we-learned.pdf>

Accessible Cycling Event Invite

Energy Saving Trust are pleased to invite you to our free online event supporting disabled, elderly, and rural cycling, taking place on Wednesday 25 August, 1pm-4.30pm.

This is a great opportunity to learn about accessibility and cycling, and to build knowledge on ebikes, adapted cycles and bike shares. You will also have the opportunity to meet funders and active travel partners throughout the afternoon.



The event will cover the following topics:

- Providing a sustainable all-ability cycling service.
- Building blocks for inclusion in cycling for disabled people.
- Access to ebikes in rural Scotland and rural bike shares.
- eBike, adapted and rural cycle projects in Scotland.

- Operating an inclusive public bike share scheme.
- Removing infrastructure barriers.

[Register and find out more](#), including confirmed speakers.

Community Ownership Fund

You may be aware that the UK Government has launched a new £150 million Community Ownership Fund. This will provide funding over four years to support community groups to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of being lost. From the summer onwards, voluntary and community groups can bid for up to £250,000 (up to £1M for sport projects) at 50% match funding to help them purchase or take over important assets and run them for the benefit of the local community.

The intention is to help ensure key assets within a community are not lost. The UK Government has not published a definite list of eligible assets as they want to hear what matters to communities but the fund could support community ownership proposals including:

- sporting and leisure facilities
- cinemas and theatres
- music venues
- museums
- galleries
- parks
- pubs
- post office buildings
- shops

Applicants will need to be able to demonstrate the value of the asset to local people and the sustainability of the project as well as the risk of losing the amenity without community intervention.

The Fund will run until 2024/25 and there will be at least 8 bidding rounds in total. Key dates are as follows:

- 30th July - online portal opens for submission of applications
- 13 August 2021 – deadline for submitting applications to the first bidding round
- December 2021 – round 2 will open
- May 2022 – round 3 will open

The first round is primarily focused on capital costs with an expectation that development funding will be available from round 2 onwards. The UK Government intends to update the

fund's prospectus and guidance notes for round 2 in the autumn based on their learning from round 1.

For more details, please see the [Community Ownership Fund prospectus](#). A copy of the application form is attached.

Stakeholder Information: Covid-19 Testing Update w/c 9, 16 & 23 Aug 2021

The community testing programme alternates between **local fire stations*** and over the next few weeks will be available from 10:30am – 3pm in:

Coldstream	9 & 10 Aug
Lauder	9 & 10 Aug
Eyemouth	11 & 12 Aug
Galashiels* (Volunteer Hall)	11 & 12 Aug
Newcastleton	13 Aug
Innerleithen	13 & 14 Aug
Newcastleton	16 Aug
West Linton	16 & 17 Aug
Kelso	17 & 18 Aug
Selkirk	18 & 19 Aug
Jedburgh	19 & 20 Aug
Duns* (Volunteer Hall)	20 & 21 Aug
Newcastleton	30 & 31 Aug
Galashiels* (Volunteer Hall)	30 Aug
Innerleithen	31 Aug & 1 Sep
Kelso	1 & 2 Sep
West Linton	2 & 3 Sep
Selkirk	3 & 4 Sep

Appointments can be booked ahead of time by calling 01896 826370 or emailing ATS.Service@borders.scot.nhs.uk. **Please note: that the schedule may change at short notice if need be.** You can double check before attending via the above contact details.

Why should I get tested for Covid-19 when I don't have any symptoms?

1 in 3 people with Covid-19 do not show symptoms. Regular rapid lateral flow device (LFD) testing of people without symptoms helps find Covid-19 cases which would otherwise go undetected. This helps to break chains of transmission and limit the spread of this virus.

Who can get rapid tests?

Anyone in Scotland who does not have Covid-19 symptoms can access free twice weekly LFD testing. **Rapid Covid-19 tests are only suitable for those who do not have Covid-19 symptoms.**

If you have Covid-19 symptoms please self-isolate and book a **PCR Covid-19 test** through the national system by visiting the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk) or calling 0800 028 2816.

I don't have symptoms - where can I get rapid Covid-19 tests?

There are lots of ways to get access this testing, including:

- Collection from the Borders walk-through test site, which is operated by the UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care, at **Langlee Community Centre in Galashiels** (Marigold Dr, TD1 2LP) **between 3:30pm and 8pm**.
- Collection from [local pharmacies](#).
- Calling 119 to get test kits delivered to your home.
- [Ordering test kits online](#) to be delivered to your home.
- Attending one of the test sites (please see below) which are operating as part of our **Community Testing Programme**.

Locality Plan and Action Plans

[Tweeddale Locality Plan | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

The request for a lease on Jedderfield farm, validated on 13 January 2021, was withdrawn by the applicant on 9 April 2021. One request continues to be progressed towards validation. One group are in discussions with SBC's Estates Team to enter into a lease agreement outwith the formal asset transfer process; it is proposed to seek the views of the local community prior to formalising the lease.

[Area partnerships information pack | Area partnerships | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

	Section 4: Further Support
20.	<p>Useful Links below</p> <p>Debt Advice:</p> <p>Citizens Advice Bureau</p> <p>Salvation Army</p> <p>NHS Money Worries App – download from Google Play or the App Store</p> <p>Business support:</p> <p>www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business</p> <p>www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot</p> <p>General Funding:</p>

<https://fundingscotland.com/>

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

[SBC Community Fund](#)

[SBC Enhancement & Welfare Trust](#)

[Sustainable Development Fund](#)

Heating & energy:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/affordablewarmth

Covid-19:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus

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

Health & Wellbeing:

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

NHS Borders Wellbeing Service:

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

NHS Borders Wellbeing Point:

www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/wellbeingpoint

Community Empowerment:

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20062/strategies_plans_and_policies/357/community_empowerment_scotland_act_2015

Scottish Community Council Newsletter:

<http://www.communitycouncils.scot/>