

Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund - Assessment Form

For the purpose of assessment, projects have been ranked high, medium or low to reflect how strongly the application meets the criteria of the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund.

High – a strong demonstration of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

Medium – provides acceptable examples of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

Low – lacks detail of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

1. Applicant Details:

Organisation name	A Heart for Duns					
Organisation structure	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation					
Application reference	BBBB/BER/05					
Theme of application	Sport	Arts & Culture	Environment	Community Capacity	Community resilience	Intergenerational activity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project start date	September 2021			Project end date	March 2022	

2. Organisation's finances:

End of year balance	£78,820
Current bank balance	£103,052
Total cash/Unrestricted reserves available & purpose	£56,926
Total restricted /committed funds & purpose	£21,894

Project:

Outline of what the group plan to do to help people recover from the pandemic. Projects will be ranked higher if the application strongly demonstrates that they are meeting an identified need in the community. (e.g. area of deprivation, protected characteristics, tackling wellbeing and isolation, tackling climate change)		
High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
Comment: Before the pandemic a Heart for Duns (AHFD) hosted a wide range of community events throughout the year attracting over 5,000 visitors to the hall. These included community		

lunches, cinema (families), film club (adults), U3A meetings, dance & fitness classes and operatic recitals. All these events not only provided an income for AHFD but opportunities for cultural social interaction for both residents of Duns and the wider community.

Members of AHFD (c. 350) with have indicated that they want to see live events restarting as a step to returning to a semblance of normality. AHFD has engaged with local groups/organisations, including care homes and support organisations, to ensure that this view is shared with the wider public – it is. However, hall users are wary of gathering for social events again so it is vital that any barriers are removed to events in order to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone in the community. Social distancing is very much part of providing that safe environment.

Over the last 17 months people have become used to limited social interaction to such an extent that social isolation has increased dramatically, impacting on people throughout our society. As the pandemic eases an incentive is needed to encourage the community to start to take part in society again. In order to encourage this AHFD is proposing a series of events that will be free of charge although donations will be encouraged. Removing charges and relying on donations from those who are willing/able to contribute presents a financial risk for the organisation that has received no operating income since March 2020. Investment from BBBB Recovery Fund will take away the financial risk for the events and allow them to happen

Partnering with U3A, Duns Players and others AHFD will provide cultural, training and education activities as well as providing direct volunteering opportunities through gardening projects such as Blooming Marvellous.

AHFD plans to provide:

- Film Club screenings (incl. catering), est. total per event 40
- 5 Community cinema events (10 screenings), est. total per screening 80
- 6 Community lunches, est. total per event 50
- Christmas lunch x 2 sittings, est. total per event 40
- Community celebration – end of lockdown est. total of attendees 300
- 112 U3A learning/social sessions over six mth period, est. total per event 50
- 8 U3A talks, est. total per event 38
- 4 reading events – Duns Players, est. total per event 12

Through these events there will be the opportunity for up to 3,080 to engage in social activity. As people become more confident in taking part in events it is hoped that they will continue to attend those provided and hosted by AHFD providing the organisation with a vital income to ensure ongoing sustainability.

Evidence of individuals, groups or communities likely to benefit from the new initiative and how they have been affected by the pandemic:

High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comment:

Audiences that AHFD have engaged with have said that they would like to see a mix of some live events and more volunteering opportunities reintroduced. AHFD has used this feedback and their knowledge and experience, as a key provider of events in Berwickshire, to develop a programme of activities that will be of interest to the whole community and encourage them to get involved again.

During the pandemic they provided online for existing and new audiences, these included a chocolate workshop, quizzes and U3A activities. In person activities have been limited to external plant sales, external volunteering, blood donor sessions plus Covid testing and Covid inoculation sessions.

By removing the door fee it is anticipated that people may try new things and widen their cultural appreciation opening up a range of new experiences for them to participate in now and in the future.

AHFD plans to rebuild previous audiences and attract new ones. Although almost everyone is affected by the continuing uncertainties feedback received is to provide opportunities to help the community recover, and to provide options and choices based on arts and cultural activities which encourage safe and distanced social contact.

Expected impact of the new initiative and how will it help those most in need recover from the pandemic

High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comment:

A grant from the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund will enable AHFD to provide opportunities for social contact through cultural events in order to deliver social opportunities for the local community. It is expected that doing so will help to combat isolation and loneliness in a safe environment.

AHFD plans to provide what it knows works and will encourage the community to re-engage with them. Prior to the pandemic numbers participating in events included:

- Community lunch (principally those that would have been shielding during lockdown) - up to 400 per year
- Community cinema – 200 per screening. Up to 2,000 per year
- Film Club - 25 per screening. Up to 175 per year
- Christmas lunches - 200

Allowing for social distancing will mean that numbers will have to be restricted but this necessary in order to ensure that people feel safe and able to participate in the activities they enjoyed pre-March 2020.

Project Expenditure:

Total Project Cost	£24,199
Organisation contribution	£11,521
Request to BBBB	£12,678

Item of expenditure	Cost
Film Club (catered)	£1,650
Community film	£11,175
Community lunches	£1,620
Christmas lunches	£1,600
Community celebration	£3,250
U3A learning & social sessions	£3,344
U3A talks	£480
Play & poetry readings	£1,080

Match/other funding sought:

Funder	Funding Requested	Status
AHFD reserves	£11,5121	Agreed
	£	
	£	

Grants received from Scottish Borders Council or any other funder within the last three years

Date	Project Title	Amount
tbc	Investing in Communities - Making AHFD	£103,458
tbc	Third Sector Resilience Fund grant - Covid grant support	£13,261
tbc	The National Lottery - Community larder	£5,705
tbc	DTAS resilience - Covid grant support	£4,800
tbc	Business support fund - Covid grant support	£25,000

SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT	The application does not meet the criteria of the BBBB fund as some quotes are outstanding. However, it is expected that these will be in place prior to the meeting of the Area Partnership on 2 September.
Comments	<p>The application has scored high in each section it meets a number of criteria of the Fund as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it targets the social isolated • some events are specifically for older people (U3A) • it is enabling organisational recovery • all events are free to all with the facility for optional donations

Additional terms and conditions required	The applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance.
Recommendations to evaluate impact:	If successful, we recommend the applicant include in their funding evaluation: <ul data-bbox="692 450 1331 591" style="list-style-type: none">• Number of people attending each event• Feedback from those attending events• Learning from AHFD following delivery of the project