

Teviot & Liddesdale Community Fund 2021/22

With regard to the Community Fund, in March 2021 Scottish Borders Council agreed:

- That if desired, each Area Partnership could create an Assessment Panel which would make recommendations to the Area Partnership
- The Area Partnership would make the final decision based on the recommendations of the Assessment Panel
- Assessment Panels were to include wide community representation in line with SCDC report
- The criteria for the Community Fund was to be agreed by the Area Partnership with all applications demonstrating sustainability and compliance with legal requirements, as well as Following the Public Pound Code of Practice
- Each Area Partnership could allocate their Community Fund in different ways

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With regard to its Community Fund, in June 2021 Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership agreed:

- That its Community Fund would be split into two pots – Pot A and Pot B
- Each pot would receive 50% of the Community Fund available for the financial year i.e. £23,899.63 in each pot
- Pot A would be sub-divided amongst the 8 Community Councils with the rural CCs receiving one share and Hawick & Burnfoot receiving two shares each (£2,389.96 / £4,779.93)
- Pot A would be the responsibility of the CCs with a proposal that an assessment panel created in each CC area would assess funding applications in their area
- Pot B would be for the whole of Teviot & Liddesdale and one assessment panel would be formed to assess T&L applications

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At tonight's meeting of the Area Partnership, details have been circulated for agreement on the application form, guidance and scoring matrix. Other decisions required to allow the Fund to be opened:

- What will happen to the funding allocated to Community Councils in Pot A where no Assessment Panel has been set up?
- How will appointments be made to the Assessment Panel for Pot B?

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Pot A

- Option 1 – a Community Council without an Assessment Panel allocates their funding to another Community Council
- Option 2 – a Community Council without an Assessment Panel deals with any applications to their funding directly at one of their Community Council meetings
- Option 3 – that Community Council allocates their funding to Pot B, with the funding ring-fenced for that particular area until the end of 2021 and any applications would be dealt with by the Pot B Assessment Panel. At the end of 2021, any unspent funding for that CC area would transfer into the wider Pot B fund

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The Assessment Panel for Pot B will require to be agreed, suggest:

- The number of members of the Assessment Panel is set between 7 and 11
- Any SBC Elected Members on the Panel will be non-voting and there should be a maximum of 3
- A recruitment campaign will be run by SBC Officers (as has happened in other localities) inviting applications from those who wish to be on the Assessment Panel. Community Council members are eligible to apply and applications will also be welcomed from representatives of other Community Groups/Organisations or those resident in Teviot & Liddesdale with skills in assessing grant applications.
- The appointment of members to the Assessment Panel to be delegated to the Director of Resilient Communities in consultation with the Chair of Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership and the Executive Member for Community Development & Localities

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To allow for the immediate opening of the Fund for Pot B and communities to benefit from this money, suggest:

- Until the Assessment Panel members have been appointed, SBC officers would assess any applications received using the previous Community Fund criteria;
- The assessments would be brought directly to the Area Partnership for decision; and
- Once the Assessment Panel was in operation, it would take over the assessment of the applications and the recommendations to the Area Partnership.