

Current SBC Consultations

No current consultations

Community Information

Connecting Scotland

Connecting Scotland Round 2 of Phase 3 was launched Monday 30th August. This is a fantastic opportunity to remove barriers related to digital exclusion for unemployed young people and adults (aged 16+), so if you or your colleagues work in these areas, please consider applying for devices - which will be gifted to the individuals you support / work with.

This phase will provide devices, data, training and support to users who are low income, digitally excluded and **seeking employment**. Uptake of Round 1 of the phase was lower than expected across Scotland, including the Borders, so there is still a good number of devices available (300+).

The criteria for this phase is as follows, (individuals **must** meet each of these):-

- They are digitally excluded – they currently do not have access to an appropriate device and/or internet connection at home.
- They are from a low income household – they cannot afford to buy a device or pay for internet access from their household income (e.g. claiming or eligible for Universal Credit).
- They are actively taking steps to improve their employment prospects. This includes people furthest from the labour market who are not job ready but are undertaking activity to address any barriers to employment or training (e.g. confidence building, improving health or wellbeing, ESOL programmes)
- They are currently unemployed (see the [FAQs](#) for more detailed guidance on the eligibility of people in short-term work placements or insecure employment)

Priority will be given to organisations working with people who are likely to have been affected most by the changes to the labour market over the past year, either due to existing inequalities or redundancy. This includes:

- Women
- Young people
- Disabled people
- Minority ethnic people
- Lone parents
- People experiencing other forms of socio-economic disadvantage

Here is a link to the [application guidance](#) and can find out more information at www.connecting.scot. This application round is open until **5pm on Monday 27th September**, with successful organisations receiving their devices in November and December.

Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities

The [Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities](https://www.sclld.org.uk) (SCLD) has launched a new app, 'Human Rights Town', designed to help people with learning disabilities to understand their human rights.

<https://www.sclld.org.uk/welcome-to-human-rights-town/>

Together for our Planet Fund

Now opened to applications for our new small grants programme [Together for Our Planet](#).

This new £2.5million National Lottery-funded programme will support communities across the UK take action on climate change, ahead of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), in Glasgow this November.

As a reminder this programme is offering grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to support local community projects. It aims to create a legacy of ongoing climate action in hundreds of communities, beyond COP26, supporting the UK to reduce its emissions on its part to Net Zero by 2050.

Although the fund will be open for all, groups that haven't received our funding previously will be a priority and we're also focusing on groups and communities who are starting to take climate action and/or those more likely to be directly impacted by climate change.

The programme is open for applications from today, 1 September, until 5pm on Thursday 18 November.

Find out more about who can apply and the projects they will fund:

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/together-for-our-planet>

As part of our pre-launch activity we offered a webinar to explain more about the programme and talk through eligibility. We're offering a further two webinars in September and anyone interested in attending can sign up here: [7 September](#) and [21 September](#).

The new programme opens as we also launch a new online '[Climate Hub](#)' – a dedicated space to find latest funding news, insights, learnings and stories on climate change and the environment. We will be adding to the Hub regularly, and please do share anything that might be of interest to your networks and audiences.

Thank you for your support and please do contact us if you would like to follow up on any of this.

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.

Locality Plan and Action Plans

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

[Eildon Area Partnership | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/communityempowerment>

Information Pack on Community Empowerment for Area Partnerships:

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20015/your_council/472/area_partnerships/7

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Currently, there are no formal Participation Requests or formal Asset Transfer requests being considered within the Eildon area. Information about the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is available on the Council’s website: [Parts of the Act | Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 | 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> <p>https://fundingscotland.com/</p> <p>https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/</p> <p>SBC Community Fund</p>

[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/>