

**OPEN QUESTIONS FOR SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 28 OCTOBER 2021**

**Question from Councillor Ramage**

To Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Finance

Vacant and derelict sites can affect our communities. There are £50 million pounds available from Scottish Government to transform these sites. Have SBC made any applications to this fund?

**Question from Councillor McAteer**

To Executive Member for Wellbeing, Sport and Culture

There is growing evidence that a number of Borders sporting clubs and organisations are facing a very uncertain future with for example the demise of a number of old established junior rugby clubs in Hawick and many local cricket clubs struggling to fulfil fixtures. While the Covid pandemic has influenced the situation there is a wider more profound concern that young people in particular are not progressing their chosen sport beyond High School. Much of this I understand is because they don't feel supported or motivated to participate in some team based sports. In 2011 this authority in its joint physical activity, sport and physical education strategy said there has never been a more important time or need for the development of physical activity, sport and physical education. In addition we pronounced that 'we are fortunate in Scottish Borders to have a proud sporting heritage as well as a unique landscape to play in and take part in activity'. Can the executive member explain what action Scottish Borders Council has underway to help our young sportspeople and the various sporting clubs and organisations to ensure we can maintain our proud sporting heritage. In addition can he explain what agreed plans are in place to update and reinvigorate the current strategy given these worrying challenges.

**Question from Councillor Bell**

To Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Finance

As private business on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 this Council agreed a short list of project bids to be submitted to the UK Community Renewal Fund. Councillors were told at that time of urgency occasioned by the fact that spending on successful projects would require to be made by the end of March 2022. Councillors were also told that a decision on funding for successful applications would be made "by the end of July 2021". It is now the end of October. What has happened?