

# 2021/2022 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

<b>Organisation name</b>	The Abbotsford Trust					
<b>Organisation structure</b>	Scottish Registered Charity SC037425					
<b>Application reference</b>	BBBB-EIL-11					
<b>Theme of application</b>	Sport	Arts & culture	Environment	Community capacity	Community resilience	Intergenerational activity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Project start date</b>	Nov 21			<b>Project end date</b>	May 22	

### 2. Organisation's Finances

<b>End of year balance</b>	£89,856
<b>Current bank balance</b>	£550,797
<b>Total cash/Unrestricted reserves available &amp; purpose</b>	£155,516
<b>Total restricted /committed funds &amp; purpose</b>	£229,598* further information provided at bottom of assessment

### 3. 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)

<b>High</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Medium</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Low</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comment:  
 Abbotsford Trust would like to develop a new pilot project for adults living in the local community whose mental health and well-being has been affected by the pandemic. The project will be led by the Abbotsford Trust's Heritage Engagement Officer. Group sessions will take place each week on a weekday morning at Abbotsford with a small number of places available. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities which are all aimed at improving their mental and physical health and well-being.

The project will look to engage with 20 individuals. The intention is for the project to be delivered in four "blocks", with each block lasting six weeks and having five participants.

Five individuals would attend weekly for six weeks, then they would be followed by another group of five people attending weekly for a second six weeks, and so on.

The aim of the project is for those involved to have the opportunity to try o different things at Abbotsford. For example, participants might try hands-on practical activities in the gardens and estate (eg, gardening, planting, seed collecting, clearing etc) and take part in activities in the historic house and visitor centre (such as at the visitor welcome desk in the Visitor Centre or being a room steward in the historic house). Then there is also the opportunity to try out more creative and 'behind the scenes' things at Abbotsford, such as digital marketing and storytelling/interpretation (people love to do this, taking inspiration from Sir Walter Scott's collections or the gardens as prompts, for example).

Abbotsford Trust are looking for funding to cover key staff costs that would play a role in supporting the individuals on the project

Staff time involved;  
Heritage Engagement Officer  
Heritage Engagement Manager  
Head Gardener  
Estate Ranger

Other costs involved include travel expenses to help support participants attend the session with the aim of removing barriers to participation.

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

**High**

**Medium**

**Low**

Comment:

The Abbotsford Trust will work in partnership with the Local Area Co-ordination (LAC) - Mental Health team at Scottish Borders Council, and will look to work with adults (18+) who have engaged with the LAC team to participate in weekly group activities on site at Abbotsford. The LAC team support adults aged 18 years and over who have acknowledged mental health difficulties that are affecting their quality of life. The team covers the Eildon area (Galashiels, Selkirk, Earlston). The LAC team will identify and support individuals to attend the project.

Participants will receive support from the Abbotsford staff while on site and participants will continue to receive support from community link workers outwith this time so that both parties can make sure that individual needs are being met.

Whilst this is intended as a pilot project, the group are interested to working with other partners who may wish to encourage people to attend.

Expected <u>impact</u> of the new initiative and how will it help those most in need recover from the pandemic		
<b>High</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Medium</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Low</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The project will give participants the opportunity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Improve their physical and mental health</li> <li>2) Become a more active member of their local community</li> <li>3) Build structure and focus into their week</li> <li>4) Re-build confidence, resilience and self-esteem</li> <li>5) Further develop life skills such as timekeeping, communication skills and resilience</li> <li>6) Gain an insight into their own local heritage and make a valuable contribution and connection to an internationally significant heritage site</li> <li>7) Become familiar with the facilities available at Abbotsford (e.g. the free-to-access path network) and confidence to access these independently to support well-being</li> <li>8) Gain experience of short-term volunteering in preparation for a more committed volunteering opportunity at Abbotsford or elsewhere</li> <li>9) Gain an insight into careers and jobs within the tourism sector on their doorstep</li> </ol> <p>For those who wish to and for whom it is appropriate, there is the potential for this experience to lead into more regular and formal volunteer opportunities at Abbotsford. The Trust currently have over 140 individuals that are volunteers that work right across the estate. Therefore there is potential for some who come through this pilot to go on to be a regular volunteer if they choose.</p>		

#### 4. Project Expenditure:

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	£20,908
<b>10% organisation contribution</b>	£2,090
<b>Request to BBBB</b>	£15,000

<b>Item of expenditure</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Staff costs	£16,858
Materials and Equipment	£2,00
Catering	£250
Travel costs for participants x 20 (£15 x 6 sessions x 20 participants)	£1,800
	£

Match/other funding sought:

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Status</b>
SBC - Coronavirus Business Support Grant	£10,000	Awarded
SBC - Business Closure Grant (one-off top-up grant)	£6,000	Awarded
SBC - Large self-catering property support fund	£2,000	Awarded

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount</b>
		£
		£
		£

		£
		£

<b>SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT</b>	the application meets the criteria of the BBBB fund
<b>Comments</b>	<p>the application scores medium/high as this is a new project.</p> <p>The opportunity will be offered to targeted individuals who have been impacted most by the pandemic</p> <p>The application demonstrates positive partnership working with the LAC team although this could be enhanced by engaging with additional partner organisations. The group are willing to explore further possibilities in terms of building partnership work.</p>
<b>Additional terms and conditions required</b>	<p>the applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance</p> <p>If successful we would expect the group to evaluate their project by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of individuals involved in the project</li> <li>• Feedback from participants/and support staff as to benefits of the project on individuals wellbeing.</li> <li>• The number of individuals being involved in further volunteer opportunities</li> </ul>

\*The Abbotsford Trust is an independent charity that owns and cares for the historic buildings and collections created by Scott and his descendants. During the year ended 31st December 2020, the Trust made a surplus of £186,964 on unrestricted funds, and the Trading Company made a loss of £97,108, meaning that we closed the year with an overall consolidated surplus of £89,856.

Reserves policy: The Abbotsford Board retains its policy of achieving its target of no less than £150,000 in Unrestricted Reserves. At year end (31st December 2020), the unrestricted reserves stood at £155,516. This represents approximately three months of running costs.

Restricted funds: The Abbotsford Trust has a number of restricted funds, each of which is for a specific nominated purpose. The restricted funds are either for capital purposes or revenue (project) purposes. Note 24 in the annual accounts lists restricted funds at 31st December 2020. So far in 2021, staffing expenditure from restricted project funds is expected to account for £229,598.