

Current SBC Consultations

2022/23 Budget Survey

We have launched a survey to understand the priorities of Borderers and give local people the opportunity to influence our next budget and a range of other important service areas for the future

A [short video](#) is available which provides more information about the survey and the questions being asked.

The [online survey](#) is live until 30 January.

Authorisation form for organisations/groups requesting Council building access

As a result, our absolute priority remains the safety of the public and staff, including external groups who previously accessed Council buildings for service provision and meetings. This authorisation form has been created for external groups such as third sector organisations, community or volunteer groups who deem themselves to be an essential service which require access to a Council building to deliver this service.

This is not a booking form. This form should be completed for any request to access a Council building including meetings, events and service provision.

- An example of an essential service request maybe a volunteer group who need to access a building to prepare Food Bank parcels to distribute in a community.
- An example of a non-essential service request is a community council monthly meeting.

Any group wishing to use a [Live Borders](#)-managed building which the Council still owns should also complete this authorisation request form.

[Authorisation form for organisations/groups requesting Council building access - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 Early Engagement Survey

The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) will set out how Scottish Borders Council and its partners plan to address the housing and housing related opportunities and challenges over the five year period 2023 – 2028. This new plan will build on the significant progress made on the issues identified in the [LHS 2017-2022](#) and will address newly arising housing matters particularly in response to the publication of new [LHS Guidance](#), [Housing to 2040](#) and the Covid-19 pandemic.

This short early engagement survey allows residents to share their views on housing issues within the Scottish Borders. It is a key component of the early engagement work involved in the preparation of the Local Housing Strategy 2023-28.

[Local Housing Strategy 2023-28 Early Engagement Survey - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

Common Good Consultation 2022

This consultation seeks your views on the Common Good registers for the former Burghs of the Scottish Borders.

All former Burghs have a 'Common Good' which comprises the land, buildings, art, artefacts and funds which were owned and managed by the Burgh Council on behalf of the residents of the Burgh. The Burgh system was extinguished in 1975 but the assets owned by the Burgh at that date continue to be owned by the Common Good, which is administered by Councillors who sit as Common Good Trustees.

We are seeking your views on whether you think any additional assets should be included on these registers, and if so, why. You may also have further information on the assets noted. Or you may think that an item on the register is not Common Good.

[Common Good Consultation 2022 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

Community Information

Tenant Grant Fund

A Tenant Grant Fund has been set up to help tenants who are at risk of becoming homeless because they've fallen behind with rent payments during COVID-19.

Applications will be assessed to ensure that support is provided to households at greatest risk of becoming homeless.

Eligibility

If you're a tenant and have struggled financially as a direct result of the pandemic you should apply before 31 March 2022.

Your rent arrears must have built up between 23 March 2020 and 9 August 2021, and your landlord should have carried out steps to resolve the issue with you.

We'll make full or partial payments if your application is successful, and for a maximum period of 12 months between the above dates.

How to apply

Tenants can apply online.

There's information you'll need to hand to be able to submit your application, which is detailed at the beginning of the form.

If you need support with your application you can ask your landlord or a member of your family or a friend. You can also contact your local Citizen's Advice Bureau for support.

Information for landlords

Payment will be made directly to you to reduce your tenant's arrears. As a condition of the payment you must agree to end any ongoing proceedings.

Private landlords must be registered on the Scottish Landlord Register.

[Financial support | COVID-19 Financial Assistance | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

Scotland's Census 2022

"Scotland's next census will be held in March 2022. This census will be a digital first census and we want to encourage as many households in Scotland as possible to complete it online. We would like to invite you to one or more of the online events listed below, to give you information on how the census will be delivered and how you can help get messages and support to those groups you already support in other ways, to ensure they can take part in the census and be counted.

Each online event will last no longer than 30 minutes and we invite you to register for the relevant event by clicking on the link below.

Wednesday, 12 January 2022	11:00 – 11:30	LGBTI	Click here to register for event
Wednesday, 19 January 2022	11:00 – 11:30	Young people not living at home	Click here to register for event

Please forward this invitation onto other organisations you feel would benefit from attending these events.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to get in touch – Scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk.”

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:

- 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

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

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

0 participation requests

Continuing to work with 2 organisations to progress asset transfer requests on buildings in the Tweeddale area.

1 new informal enquiry received about a potential asset transfer request.

[Area partnerships information pack | Area partnerships | 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>

www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot

General Funding:

<https://fundingscotland.com/>

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/>

[SBC Community Fund](#)

[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/>