

## EILDON COMMUNITY FUND

### EILDON ASSESSMENT PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE CURRENT SCHEME FOR 2022/23

#### **Background**

At their meeting on Tuesday 15 March 2022, Eildon Assessment Panel discussed potential changes to the operation of the fund from 1 April 2022. This paper sets out the proposed recommendation for change for consideration by Eildon Area Partnership.

#### **Recommendations**

Eildon Assessment Panel is recommending the following amendment:

##### Amendment

Introduce funding “rounds” throughout the financial year for both Fast Track applications and applications that exceed a value of £1.5k. Fast Track applications will have deadline dates every four weeks. Applications exceeding £1.5k will have deadline dates that coincide with the Eildon Area Partnership dates.

##### Reason

By advertising set deadline dates, organisations that wish to apply to the fund can clearly see when their applications need to be submitted by, which round of funding they are applying to and when their application will be heard at Eildon Area Partnership (or by the Assessment Panel in the case of Fast Track applications).

#### **Thoughts & Comments**

There are groups based in the Eildon locality that deliver a service Borderswide. The Panel feel that the fairest way to award funding from the Eildon allocation is to ensure that groups evidence the need for the project within the locality to which they are applying.

The panel would be looking for:

- Clearer guidance around Borderswide projects
- The Panel request that applying groups highlight the benefits their project will bring to the Eildon area specifically.
- The Panel are happy to award proportional funding in line with how the project is delivered across the Scottish Borders.

Panel members found the assessment panel to be a positive experience, some key points below:

- Enjoyable process and enjoyed being part of the group
- A good way to make decisions
- Enthusiastic and encouraged to see small communities/groups apply for funding
- More engaged and enthused to join other groups, such as community councils, where you can be involved in decision making
- Valued other opinions in the group and worked well to find consensus