

## **Scottish Borders Council**

### **Teviot & Liddesdale Community Fund Pot B Assessment Panel**

Minutes of meeting of Teviot & Liddesdale Community Fund Pot B Assessment Panel held via Teams on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present: Marion Short, Andrew Warburton, Billy Fletcher, Duncan Taylor, Dale Ploughman, Iain Crosbie, Jacqueline McNeil, Gillian Jardine (SBC), Scott McKail (SBC)

Apologies: Philip Kerr

#### **Stable Life**

Applied for £5,000 to deliver the provision of a structured programme for at least 100 referred young people which will include equine assisted therapy/learning, riding lessons and psychosocial based interventions. It was noted the very high costs for running and maintaining this type of project and the innumerable other sources of funding applied for. SBC Officers informed the panel that Stable Life has applied to the NSF in three other Localities and that the reason for the NSF applications were as a result of two unsuccessful funding applications which had resulted in a projected shortfall of income. It was noted and commended by the panel that the organisation uses the provision of volunteers and work placements in order to reduce costs and some panel members were able to testify to the difference the project has made to service users.

DECISION NOTED that:

It was agreed to recommend that Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership award a grant of £5,000 and there were no conditions made in conjunction with this application.

#### **Burnfoot Community Futures**

Applied for £4,960 to deliver an Event Programme 22/23 which principally related to the provision of five community bus trips and 6/7 seasonal community events. Full consideration was given to this application and noted that the total project cost was £5,560 and indicative that the small balance of £600 would be met from the applicants own funds.

DECISION NOTED that:

It was agreed to recommend that Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership award a grant of £4,960 as it was considered this would be a much needed facility provided particularly for the residents living in Burnfoot.

### **ArtBeat Studios**

Artbeat Studios applied for £4,240 for Artbeat Workshops and to reconfigure their studio space to include a computer suite, a workshop area and bespoke storage areas. Full consideration was given to this application and noted that the total project cost was £5,000 and indicative that the small balance of £760 relative to staff time would be met from their own funds. The project was submitted on the basis of responses to a community consultation.

DECISION NOTED that:

It was agreed to recommend that Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership award a grant of £4,240 as it was considered this would be a very worthwhile facility provided in the community

There was considerable discussion on the £10 participant charge for attendance at these workshops. SBC Officers advised that Artbeat Studios had confirmed that irrespective of the individual client circumstances there would be no facility to provide these workshops free of charge. The Panel considered in the current financial climate with rising costs that this charge could possibly be seen as a barrier to some attending and facilities such as this should be available free of charge within the community. However they also comment that if this project wasn't supported it could be detrimental to their future service. Whilst recommending that the grant should be awarded, the Panel would like to register their comment that service user numbers at Artbeat Studios should be monitored and that the organisation should consider their charging policy and whether discounted facilities can be provided.

### **Roxburgh & Berwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau**

An application from the Roxburgh & Berwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau requesting £5,000 was received for the Cost of Living Project, to employ an additional staff member for 12 months in response to increased demand for their services. SBC Officers confirmed that applications had also been submitted to Berwickshire and Cheviot NSF for £5,000 and £2,500 respectively. SBC Officers advised that Council had approved additional measures of £1.2m in response to the cost of living crisis but the finer detail of the distribution of this funding was not yet available.

DECISION NOTED that:

It was agreed to recommend that Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership defer a decision on this application until the details of the aforementioned additional funding are known as it may be that any additional monies available to the Roxburgh & Berwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau would cover the cost of this member of staff and there would be no requirement to seek further funding from this source.

### **Campaign for Borders Rail**

The Campaign for Borders Rail applied for £2,600 to contribute to the costs of commissioning a consultant study to look at the impact an extended Borders Railway would have on local communities and the infrastructure that would be required for an extension. The panel had questions for the applicant with regards to value of undertaking this study when £10 million in funding has been allocated from the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal to support a full feasibility study. The panel also queried the timeline for completion of this survey and asked whether the study could be completed within 6 months to reduce any risk of overlapping with the Borderlands funded study. The applicant was asked to confirm a timeline for the study and has since confirmed that the study would be completed within the six months.

DECISION NOTED that:

It was agreed to recommend that the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership award a grant of £2,600. Although concerns were raised about potential duplication of outcomes from the two studies, the use of the NSF for this study and an overlap of timelines, the majority of the panel agreed that the study would provide an additional opportunity to involve communities directly and for the potential benefits of the railway to be promoted.