

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHEVIOT COMMUNITY FUND ASSESSMENT PANEL**

MINUTES of Meeting of CHEVIOT
COMMUNITY FUND ASSESSMENT
PANEL held via Microsoft Teams on
Tuesday, 25th October, 2022 at 7pm

Present:- N McIlwraith, G Hayward, G Horsburgh, D Weatherston, B
Burton

In Attendance:- Community Co-ordinator (G Jardine)

Apologies:- P Jeary

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies were noted and the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

BB declared an interest in Sprouston Coronation Hall. G Horsburgh expressed an interest in Kelso CC and Kelso In Bloom. DW declared a potential interest in Kelso in Bloom's application.

FAST TRACK PROCESS

- 3.** Panel had thought it was only Officers who would assess Fast Track applications. For autonomy and consistency, the panel support SBC Officers carrying out eligibility checks and panel members assessing Fast Track applications as part of the application process.

APPLICATION STATUS

- 4.** Panel discussed whether sub-committees of Community Councils should be considered as a separate organisation to the Community Council under the criteria of the NSF which only allows two applications per financial year from the same organisation. The panel felt that sub-committee should be considered as a separate organisation as they often have their own bank accounts and are responsible for their activities. There was also consideration that the two application limit shouldn't be applied to Community Councils as they are often the vehicle for community activity in their area. There was a view that as long as funding distribution is fair and transparent, the number of applications from the one group is irrelevant. Panel request the threshold of two applications per organisation is removed.

5a. OVERVIEW REVIEW OF MARKS

There was comment as panel members are now more in align with their scoring as demonstrated in the consistency of scoring and ranking of the applications in this financial round.

5b. KELSO IN BLOOM

An application from Kelso In Bloom requesting £2,500 was received to purchase perennials and shrubs to provide an alternative and more financially sustainable planting scheme for Kelso. The perennials and shrubs will be used to enhance the entrance to Kelso from Sprouston by developing the beds in front of the Linn.

DECISION NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £2,500. The panel were supportive of this project. It did however generate a question on the inclusion of 'innovative' on the scoring matrix. There was a view that many worthwhile projects may not score highly on innovation because it is not something new they are delivering but the project is still of value to the community.

5c. SPROUSTON CORONATION HALL

An application from Sprouston Coronation Hall requesting £2,101.75 was received to fund the installation of a switch rated at 100amps to provide to connect a generator in the hall to create a safe refuge for members of the village in the event of another major power outage. The panel felt this would enhance the village's provision as a rural community and is an example of the community being proactive. Recent experiences have shown the vulnerability of communities for different reasons.

DECISION NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £2,101.75

5d. KELSO CRICKET CLUB

An application from Kelso Cricket Club requesting £2,160 was received for purchase of a marquee to replace their old marquee which was recently destroyed in high winds and storms. The marquee is used for hosting events which help raise funds for the club.

DECISION NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £2,160

5e. KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

An application from Kelso Community Council requesting £480.96 was received to purchase IT equipment. There was discussion as to whether this could open the fund up to additional applications for IT equipment however there was acknowledgement that IT equipment has been funded in the past. There was also agreement that a conversation should be had with the Scottish Borders Community Council Network to discuss IT requirements of Community Council volunteers as they shouldn't be expect to provide their own equipment and the Community Council grant isn't enough to purchase what is required.

As this is a Fast Track application, the application will not go forward to the Area Partnership for a decision.

5F CONDITIONS OF FUNDING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

No additional conditions

5G REVIEW OF FUNDING AVAILABLE AND CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT FUNDING ROUND

Discussion within the panel as to whether a portion of the NSF could be transferred to Cheviot's Small Scheme pot to help ensure the funds are spent this financial year. GJ to enquire. GJ also to check when the Cheviot Area Partnership agreed the funds criteria as the panel felt that it may have been in operation for a year and so could now be reviewed. The panel agreed to a fund closing date of 14 December 2022 with the next panel meeting to take place on 11 January 2023

5H DECISIONS AND REPORT TO AREA PARTNERSHIP

GJ to circulate the NSF criteria recommendations that were previously agreed by the panel and confirm by email that panel members continue to support those recommendations. Finalised recommendations to be attached to the NSF and presented to the Area Partnership

6. CHEVIOT NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND WEBPAGES

Re-wording of the fund's webpage to include the terms 'projects, activities and one off events'.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11th January 2023, 7pm

The meeting concluded at 8:00pm