
COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Report by Director – Resilient Communities

Executive Committee

18 April 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Elected Members with an update on the delivery of the Scottish Government’s Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Fund 2022/23.**
- 1.2 The CLLD Fund is a specific fund for rural areas of Scotland provided by the Scottish Government since 2020.
- 1.3 The term CLLD is used to indicate that the decisions on funding allocations should be made locally rather than nationally.
- 1.4 The fund is distributed to Local Action Groups (LAGs) across rural Scotland and can overlap with Local Authority areas such as Dumfries and Galloway, whereas other LAGs can cover parts of a number of Local Authorities such as in the case of the Cairngorms.
- 1.5 The Scottish Borders has its own LAG that is made up of Public, Private and Third Sector organisations. Membership is open to anyone resident or working within the Scottish Borders region.
- 1.6 Scottish Borders Council acts as Lead Partner for the Local Action Group and distributes the funding based on the recommendations of the LAG.
- 1.7 The Scottish Government announced in December 2021 that additional funding of £11.6 million will be made available for a new Community CLLD Fund in financial year 2022/23.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Committee: -

- a) Notes the progress made regarding the allocation of Community Led Local Development funding during financial year 2022/23;**
- b) Agrees that Scottish Borders Council continues to administer the Community Led Local Development funding on behalf of the Local Action Group during financial year 2023/24;**
- c) Agrees that regular progress reports on the funding allocations are brought back to the Executive Committee.**

3 BACKGROUND

Local Action Group

- 3.1 The Local Action Groups (LAGs) are independent bodies set up originally to distribute EU (European Union) LEADER funding across small rural areas of Europe. There are 21 LAGs in Scotland and over 400 across the EU. Post-departure from the EU, the Scottish Government Rural Communities Policy team has used the LAGs to distribute their funds to local rural areas.
- 3.2 The main purpose of the Local Action Groups is to create a bottom-led approach to rural development. This can be done by LAG's funding their own projects and/or distributing funds to local organisations to carry out activities that meet the LAG's view of local needs.
- 3.3 All activities under the 2022-23 Community Led Local Development Fund needed to demonstrate that they advanced inclusion, equality and diversity and supported at least one of the overarching Scottish Government priorities of:
- Rural Poverty – especially child and fuel poverty;
 - Net Zero and Climate Emergency;
 - Covid recovery
- 3.4 The Scottish Borders has its own [Local Action Group](#) and membership is open to anyone resident or employed in the Scottish Borders. The group currently consists of 13 members as noted in **Table 3.1**.

Table 3.1 - Local Action Group Membership

Third Sector	Private Sector	Public Sector
Tweed Forum	Businessperson	Scottish Borders Council
Third Sector Interface	Businessperson	VisitScotland
Zero Waste Scotland		South of Scotland Enterprise
Southern Uplands Partnership		Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Borders Forest Trust		
Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber		
Re-Tweed		

- 3.5 Local Action Groups in other areas of Scotland have chosen to become constituted bodies and employ their own staff. However, the LAG in the Scottish Borders has always preferred to buy in the service of administering the Government funds from a Lead Partner and this function has always been undertaken by Scottish Borders Council. The Council provides administrative, audit, legal, facilitation and technical support through staff time.
- 3.6 Under the CLLD Approach, Scottish Government sets general guidelines on how their funding can be used and leaves it up to each area through the LAG to determine how the funding is spent. The guidelines also set the maximum amount of funding that can be spent on administration of the funds (in financial year 2022/23 this was 15%).

Community Led Local Development Fund 2022/23

- 3.7 The Scottish Government awarded £487,275 funding to the Scottish Borders Local Action Group (LAG) in June 2022 for the financial year 2022/23.
- 3.8 The LAG decided to allocate most of the funding through a [CLLD Main Grant](#) scheme and decided to help set up a specific group for young people with their own funds to distribute. The LAG decided to spend funds within the following areas:
- Rural Poverty Alleviation;
 - Climate Change and Net Zero;
 - Cultural Economic Recovery; and
 - Inclusive Growth which includes community-led tourism and creative industries.
- 3.9 The main grant scheme was open to community groups, charities, social enterprises and private businesses and following an application and scoring exercise the LAG awarded £353,499 to 21 projects. **Table 3.2** provides an indication of the spread of these awards over the four categories and a list of the successful projects has been provided in **Appendix A**.

Table 3.2 - CLLD Allocation for 2022/23

Theme	Number of Projects Funded	Total Value of Grants
Poverty Alleviation	7	£135,804
Climate Change and Net-Zero	7	£85,929
Cultural Sector Recovery	4	£97,555
Inclusive Growth	3	£34,211

3.10 The LAG also partnered with Youth Borders in setting up a [Youth LAG](#) made up of young people. The Youth LAG awarded funds totalling £58,502 to individual young people (aged 12-30), youth organisations and [21 projects](#) relating to:

- Mental Health and well-being;
- Rural poverty;
- Cost of living crisis;
- Community;
- Skills development; and
- Business and Enterprise.

3.11 All of the 42 projects that were allocated funding through the fund in financial year 2022/23 have been completed, and whilst all have been successful the gathering of final reports and analysis has not yet been completed.

3.12 A future report to the Executive Committee could provide further information and analysis on the projects that were awarded funding allocations.

4 COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUND 2023/24

4.1 The Scottish Government announced that there will be a new [Community Led Local Development \(CLLD Fund\) for Financial Year 2023/24](#) and there will be £11.6 million of funding to be distributed across the 21 LAG areas. The Scottish Government has also indicated that all areas will be informed of their individual allocations by the end of April 2023.

4.2 The Borders LAG voted on 14th February 2023 to ask Scottish Borders Council to be Lead Partner for financial year 2023/24. The LAG stated that it is delighted with the quality of service provided by the Council during the previous funding rounds.

4.3 The Borders Local Action Group is not a legally constituted body and so Scottish Borders Council would need to sign an agreement with the Scottish Government on the LAG's behalf to deliver the funding programme.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

Community Led Local Development is fully funded by the Scottish Government and includes an allocation for administration costs. The Scottish Government has committed £11.6m of funding for financial year 2023/24 to support Community Led Local Development across Scotland. We await notification from Scottish Government of the Scottish Borders allocation of this funding for financial year 2023/24.

Scottish Borders Council will hopefully be made aware of the allocation for financial year 2023/24 later this year.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There could be a reputational risk for Scottish Borders Council Council if we are not able to deliver on the programme of schemes identified by the LAG.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

Inclusive Growth and Equality matters will be fully considered in the development of the proposals identified for Community Led Local Development funding and equality impact assessments will be undertaken on the specific elements of the investment plan if applicable.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

It is likely that projects identified for Community Led Local Development funding will takes account of the requirement for sustainable development goals, with a particular focus on SDG 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), and SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation).

5.5 Climate Change

Community Led Local Development funding has been developed to support a Just Transition to Net Zero and it is expected to have positive implications for reducing carbon emissions.

5.6 Rural Proofing

The Community Led Local Development programme has been developed by Scottish Government to take account of the needs of all rural areas in Scotland including the Scottish Borders.

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There will be no changes required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation resulting from the proposals set out in this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Acting Chief Financial Officer, the Interim Chief Officer Corporate Governance (and Monitoring Officer), the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Name Jenni Craig

Title Director of Resilient Communities

Author(s)

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Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference:

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Simon Lynch can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council, Council HQ, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA.

Appendix A

Projects Funded Under CLLD 2022/23

Organisation	Project Name	Grant Awarded
Berwickshire Swap	Berwickshire Swap Winter Boost Programme	£12,488.16
Abundant Borders	Composting Toilets for Community Spaces	£9,056.00
Berwickshire Marine Reserve	Community Led Marine Biodiversity Monitoring	£8,130.00
Café Recharge CIC	Operations Manager/Business Support	£13,750.00
Carlops Community Garden Group	Cultivate & Create	£8,433.89
Cheviot TOG	Warm Winter	£16,045.00
Creative Coathanger	Creative Business Works	£19,740.00
Frangipane Bakery	Ready, Steady, Bake!	£15,388.54
Hawick Reivers Festival	Hawick Reivers Festival 2023	£8,500.00
Kelso Community Council	Kelso Community Food Larder	£35,245.00
Lilliesleaf DT	Leaf Green Growing Group	£6,723.56
Outside the Box Development Support Limited	Links Information Sessions	£18,879.00
Peebles Community Trust	upgrading of Heating System for School Brae Hub	£19,672.00
Peeblesshire Foodbank	Financial Inclusion & Fresh Food	£19,750.00
Real Wood Studios 1	Planning & Development Phase of Redevelopment Project	£9,650.00
Re-Tweed	International Tartan Project	£30,376.00
Southern Uplands Partnership	Connecting Threads	£49,511.00
Sustainable West Linton & District (SWLD)	Community tree raising to restore an ancient woodland	£3,537.28
Tim Stead Trust	Memory Bank	£19,804.00
Tweedsmuir Community Company	Wee Crook Community Cafe	£9,173.00
Tweeddale Youth Action	Food Punks Go Low and Slow	£19,647.00