
LIVE BORDERS PERFORMANCE

Report by Director of Resilient Communities

EXTERNAL SERVICES/PROVIDERS MONITORING GROUP

5 September 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The attached report (see Appendix 1) presents key information in regard to the Live Borders partnership agreement for Quarter 1 2023/24. It provides Members with performance information on the delivery of the commissioned sport, physical activity and cultural services.**
- 1.2 The contractual arrangement between SBC and Live Borders governing the delivery of services is set out in the Service Provision Agreement (SPA). The SPA includes the Performance Management Framework (PMF) which is used to monitor delivery of services.
- 1.3 The quarterly report is structured to give a narrative summary of performance over the last quarter; to respond to any questions raised by Elected Members at previous ESPMG meetings; to provide detail on the Key Strategic Indicators (KSI) quarterly performance; and provide quarterly case studies.
- 1.4 Live Borders continues to face challenges including:
 - a) Lower than anticipated participation levels due to the cost of living crisis and a protracted recovery from the pandemic
 - b) Inflation and energy costs
 - c) Continuing changes to the ways in which some services are consumed
- 1.5 Recognising the impact of these pressures, [March 2023 Council](#) approved that a joint SBC/Live Borders strategic review to be undertaken – with the aim of strengthening and improving partnership and service delivery arrangements and ensuring that the services delivered by Live Borders, on behalf of SBC, are sustainable in the long term and meet the current and future needs of Borders communities and service users.
- 1.6 Key outputs from the review will include both a revised SPA and robust, agreed, performance management arrangements to enable stakeholders to monitor its delivery.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Committee:-

- (a) Notes the Live Borders Performance Report**
- (b) Notes the ongoing joint strategic review; the inclusion of performance information and reporting of a revised Service Provision Agreement within the scope of the review.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The contractual arrangement between SBC and Live Borders that governs the delivery of services is the Service Provision Agreement (SPA). The SPA was last updated in 2016 when Live Borders, formerly known as Borders Sport & Leisure Trust (BSLT), was created in 2016 and when the management of cultural services was transferred from SBC to Live Borders.
- 3.2 The SPA includes a Performance Management Framework (PMF) used to monitor the SPA and the delivery of services. The PMF is built around six outcomes that Live Borders, through the SPA, works towards achieving. These are:
- i. Improved mental and physical health & wellbeing for people of all ages with a focus on inclusion.
 - ii. Enhanced learning opportunities, training and experiences with a particular focus on reducing inequalities.
 - iii. Increased economic benefits to the Scottish Borders through high quality sport and cultural services and events, and support to creative micro-businesses and organisations.
 - iv. Enhanced partnerships, pathways and access to a wide range of services and activities within facilities and communities (including structures for talent development).
 - v. Stronger communities through involvement in service planning, delivery and participation.
 - vi. Increasingly effective operations and creative approaches to income maximisation across the Trust whilst maintaining appropriate quality and standards.
- 3.3 Throughout 2022/23 and into 2023/24 Live Borders continues to experience significant challenges including:
- a) Lower than anticipated participation levels due to the cost of living crisis and a protracted recovery from the pandemic
 - b) Inflation and energy costs
 - c) Continuing changes to the ways in which some services are consumed
- 3.4 Recognising the impact of these pressures, [March 2023 Council](#) approved a recommendation for a joint SBC/Live Borders strategic review to be undertaken – with the aim of strengthening and improving partnership and service delivery arrangements and ensuring that the services delivered by Live Borders, on behalf of SBC, are sustainable in the long term and meet the current and future needs of Borders communities and service users.
- 3.5 The review is underway with a scope including:
- Reviewing and developing our shared strategic vision
 - Reviewing the scope and range of services provided
 - Reviewing how, and where, services are delivered
 - Reviewing our joint working arrangements
 - Updating the Service Provision Agreement (SPA)
 - Undertaking building energy surveys.
- 3.6 The review will consider performance management arrangements as part of the work undertaken to update the SPA.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

Due to the continuing challenges Live Borders face officers within both Scottish Borders Council and Live Borders are closely monitoring the financial position and any budget challenges will be brought forward to the appropriate committee at the appropriate point.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

This report is part of the governance framework to manage the operation and delivery of the Service Provision Agreement between the Council and Live Borders.

4.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no impact or relevance to the Council's Equality Duty or the Fairer Scotland Duty from this report.

4.4 Sustainable Development Goals

None of the recommendations made in this report impact on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

4.5 Climate Change

None of the recommendations made in this report impact on climate change.

4.6 Rural Proofing

There are no rural proofing implications arising from this report.

4.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

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

4.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation required as a result of this report.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications will be consulted and any comments received incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

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Author(s)

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

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