

---

**BORDERS RAILWAY CELEBRATION FUND**

**Report by Service Director Strategy and Policy**

---

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**2 APRIL 2015**

---

**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This report proposes the creation of a Borders Railway Celebration Fund, an application based grant scheme providing small grants to a range of community groups and organisations from across the Borders**
- 1.2 The Borders Railway Celebration Fund (the Fund) will have the overall aim of encouraging people and communities, from all areas of the Scottish Borders, to come together to celebrate the historic return of the Borders Railway in September 2015. The Fund will encourage as many people as possible to get involved in the celebrations and will be open to all non-profit making voluntary and community organisations, Community Councils, schools, public bodies and places of worship.
- 1.3 Typical awards under the Fund are expected to be for a few hundred pounds but grants up to a typical maximum of £2,500 will be considered for larger projects or for projects that create a lasting legacy of the return of the Borders Railway. The Fund will be open and flexible enough to accommodate a very wide range of project requests.
- 1.4 The Fund will open on 2nd April 2015. Applications can be submitted at any time up to 15th December 2015. Projects (activities) are expected to be fully completed by 31st March 2016. A £50,000 budget is proposed and is identified from the Police and Fire Reserves (Borders Railway) Budget.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that Scottish Borders Council approves:-**
- (a) the creation of the Borders Railway Celebration Fund;
  - (b) a virement for 2015/16 only of £50,000 from the Police and Fire Reserves (Borders Railway) Budget to the Strategic Policy Unit – BRCF Budget;
  - (c) that the decision making process for the Fund be fully delegated to the Service Director Strategy And Policy.

### **3 THE BORDERS RAILWAY CELEBRATION FUND**

- 3.1 The Borders Railway Celebration Fund (the Fund) will be set up with the overall aim of encouraging people and communities, from across the Scottish Borders, to come together to celebrate the return of the Borders Railway in September 2015.
- 3.2 The Fund will award grants to projects that bring people together to celebrate the return of the Borders Railway, for example through railway themed events, concerts, trips, open days, street parties. It will also fund projects that bring people together to create a lasting legacy of the return of the Borders Railway, for example railway themed improvements to public spaces, playparks, gardens.
- 3.3 To encourage as many people as possible to get involved in the celebrations, from across the whole Borders area, the Fund will be open to all non-profit making voluntary and community organisations, Community Councils, schools, public bodies and places of worship.
- 3.4 Typical awards under the Fund are expected to be for a few hundred pounds but grants up to a typical maximum of £2,500 will be considered for larger projects or for projects that create a lasting legacy of the return of the Borders Railway. Projects requiring more than £2,500 will be supported to access further funds from various sources.
- 3.5 The fund will be open and flexible and, to facilitate as many projects as possible, the Council expects to make decisions on funding within 3 weeks of the receipt of a fully completed application form. Incomplete applications may take longer. The grant decision making process will be fully delegated to the Service Director Strategy and Policy under the current Scheme of Delegation
- 3.6 The Fund will open on 2nd April 2015 and applications can be submitted at any time up to 15th December 2015, when the fund will close. Projects (activities) are expected to be fully completed by 31st March 2016.
- 3.7 The Fund will be delivered by the Strategic Policy Unit and will sit alongside the SBC Community Grant Scheme, promoting maximum access to local and external match funding and project development support.
- 3.8 A £50,000 budget is identified. A virement from the Police and Fire Reserves (Borders Railway) Budget in 2015/16 will create the Strategic Policy Unit BRCF Budget.

### **4 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial**

- (a) The Fund will cost £50,000 to set up. This amount will be fully distributed as community grants. The cost of administration will be met within the existing resources of the Strategic Policy Unit.
- (b) A budget of £50,000 is identified and will be vired from the Police and Fire Reserves (Borders Railway) Budget.

#### **4.2 Risk and Mitigations**

- (a) There are no risks associated with the decisions of this report. The new Fund will sit within the approved grant co-ordination, assessment and administrations processes of the Council.

#### 4.3 Equalities

- (a) An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.
- (b) The Fund has wide eligibility and all applicants will be specifically asks for an equality statement. All applications will be assessed in relation to equalities as part of the standard assessment criteria.

#### 4.4 Acting Sustainably

- (a) It is anticipated that there are no adverse implications.

#### 4.5 Carbon Management

- (a) It is anticipated that there are no adverse implications.

#### 4.6 Rural Proofing

- (a) It is anticipated that there are no adverse implications.

#### 4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

- (a) It is proposed that the decision making process of the Fund is fully delegated to the Service Head Strategy and Policy under the current Scheme of Delegation. No changes are therefore required to the Scheme.

### 5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Service Director Regulatory Services as Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.
- 5.2 The Corporate Equalities and Diversity Officer, the Corporate Communications and Marketing Manager, Corporate Transformation and Services Director have also been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

#### Approved by

**Name: David Cressey**

**Signature .....**

**Title: Service Director, Strategy & Policy**

#### Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Jean Robertson	Funding and Projects Officer

**Background Papers:** Appendix 1- Borders Railway Celebration Fund Draft Application Form and Guidance Note.

**Previous Minute Reference:**

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

Contact us at Jean Robertson, [jjrobertson@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:jjrobertson@scotborders.gov.uk) 01835826543