

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

A. Title of Proposal:	Community Engagement Strategy
B. What is it?	A new Policy/Strategy/Practice/Project <input type="checkbox"/> A revised Policy/Strategy/Practice X
C. Description of the proposal: (Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the proposal being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the context within which it will operate))	<p>The proposal is for a refreshed Community Engagement Strategy which updates previous versions and is delivered in a new format which presents is as a “living” document within the Council’s website.</p> <p>The strategy outlines our objectives to deliver against existing statutory duties for engagement and public involvement and demonstrates the Council’s commitment to a community led approach as part of the Operating Model.</p> <p>The strategy draws on National Standards and considers best practice in the approach.</p> <p>The engagement undertaken to deliver the working draft followed extensive community engagement as a focussed piece of work commenced in 2022 and has been further informed by interactions with communities through work in Place Making and Community Conversations that has progressed in the interim period.</p> <p>The strategy includes actions to deliver the principles outlined, and is aligned with other workstreams that are developing across the Council to improve accessibility and support delivery of change with improvements to systems and tools, and training.</p>

D. Service Area: Department:	Resilient Communities
E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Clare Malster Participation Officer
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	Naomi Sweeney, Portfolio Manager, SBC Consultees: Jenni Craig, Director of Resilient Communities, SBC Michael Cook, Corporate Policy Advisor, SBC Jason McDonald, Senior Manager Business Strategy & Resources, SBC Gillian Jardine, Localities Development Co-ordinator, SBC Kenny Harrow, Localities Development Co-ordinator, SBC Lizzie MacLeish, Health Improvement Specialist for Children and Young People, NHS Hannah Hawthorn, The Promise Lead Officer, SBC
G. Date(s) IIA completed:	Stage 1: 05-04-2024

Section 2 Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?

Yes
<p>If yes, - please state here: There will be a positive impact on the engagement activity around the council as a result of the principles and action laid out within the strategy.</p>

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Relevance to the Equality Duty:	
<p>Do you believe your proposal has any relevance under the Equality Act 2010? <i>(If you believe that your proposal may have some relevance – however small please indicate yes. If there is no effect, please enter “No” and go to Section 3.2.)</i></p> <p>Yes</p>	
Equality Duty	Reasoning:
<p>A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i></p>	<p>The principles provide a forum for gathering opinions from communities to better understand challenges in relation to discrimination, victimisation and harassment and provides opportunities to address within the community.</p>
<p>B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i></p>	<p>The proposals outlined within the strategy advocate for an inclusive approach with proactive steps to make engagement more available and improving the equality of opportunity.</p>

<p>C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i></p>	<p>The principles of the survey are to lay out an approach which allows the Council to foster good relations with the communities it serves. By working collaboratively with community members, and encouraging community led action as part of this forum there is significant opportunity to build understanding between different demographics in communities. This is being effectively demonstrated within the Place Making activity and can be built on with the implementation of the strategy.</p>
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<p>3.2 Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal? (You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups)</p>				
<p>Please tick below as appropriate, outlining any potential impacts on the undernoted equality groups this proposal may have and how you know this.</p>				
	Impact			Please explain the potential impacts and how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
<p>Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping</p>		√		<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for all ages to contribute. The examination of tools and accessibility will ensure effective means of engaging for all age groups with particular attention to older, potentially less digitally enabled groups, as well as improving accessibility for young people with planned alignment with the Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy as outlined in the timeline.</p>
<p>Disability A physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to</p>		√		<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Accessibility and barrier to engagement in relation to protected characteristics is a</p>

day activities. This may be visible or invisible, progressive or recurring.				specific outcome being considered as part of the alignment with other workstreams.
Gender Reassignment/ Gender Identity anybody whose gender identity or gender expression is different to their birth sex		√		Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute.
Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership		√		Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute.
Pregnancy and Maternity (refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth),		√		Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute.
Race: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)		√		Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Consideration will be given in the examination of tools as to the opportunities to provide better access to translations of information to be inclusive of non English speakers.
Religion or Belief: different religious or philosophical beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief) e.g. Christianity, Islam, Hindu, pacifism, vegetarianism, gender critical.		√		Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute.
Sex women and men (girls and boys)		√		Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute.
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual		√		Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute.

3.3 Fairer Scotland Duty

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making strategic decisions.

The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.

Is the proposal strategic?

Yes

If No go to Section 4

If yes, please indicate any potential impact on the undernoted groups this proposal may have and how you know this:

	Impact			State here how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Low and/or No Wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.		√		Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Better understanding of the challenges that communities and individuals face financially will allow the Council to be more responsive to need. Careful consideration on the financial burden that may occur as a result of the opportunity to engage must be considered within the methods offered, for example, anything digital incurs a cost (device / connectivity) or need to travel to a venue.

<p>Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies</p>		√	<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Better understanding of the challenges that communities and individuals face in accessing goods and services will allow the Council to be more responsive to need and consider how Local Authority can support access.</p>
<p>Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport), see rural proofing guidance</p>		√	<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Better understanding of the challenges that communities and individuals face will allow the Council to be more responsive to need.</p>
<p>Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income</p>		√	<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Better understanding of the challenges that communities and individuals face will allow the Council to be more responsive to need.</p>
<p>Care experienced people</p>		√	<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Better understanding of the challenges that communities and individuals face will allow the Council to be more responsive to need.</p> <p>Alignment with the work within the Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy will ensure that this is considerate of care experienced young people as well as adults.</p>
<p>Carers paid and unpaid including family members</p>		√	<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Better understanding of the challenges that communities and individuals face will allow the Council to be more responsive to need.</p>

				<p>Alignment with the work within the Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy will ensure that this is considerate of young carers as well as adults.</p>
Homelessness		√		<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Better understanding of the challenges that communities and individuals face will allow the Council to be more responsive to need.</p> <p>Alignment with the work within the Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy will ensure that this is considerate of the experiences of young people as well as adults.</p>
Addictions and substance use		√		<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Better understanding of the challenges that communities and individuals face will allow the Council to be more responsive to need.</p> <p>Alignment with the work within the Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy will ensure that this is considerate of the experiences of young people as well as adults.</p>
Those involved within the criminal justice system		√		<p>Inclusive approach to engagement provides opportunities for everyone to contribute. Better understanding of the challenges that communities and individuals face will allow the Council to be more responsive to need.</p> <p>Alignment with the work within the Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy will ensure that this is</p>

				considerate of the experiences of young people as well as adults.
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3.4 Armed Forces Covenant Duty (<i>Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only</i>)	
<p>This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters. This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.</p> <p>Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable? No</p> <p>If “Yes”, please complete below</p>	
Covenant Duty	How this has been considered and any specific provision made:
<p>The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;</p> <p>The <u>MOD Statutory Guidance</u> gives the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danger • Geographical Mobility • Separation from Family • Service Law 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfamiliarity with Civilian Life • Hours of Work • Stress 	
<p>The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;</p>	
<p>The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.</p>	

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.3.

Yes *(please delete as applicable)*

If yes, please proceed to Stage 2 and complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment

If a full impact assessment is not required briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

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Signed by Lead Officer:	
Designation:	
Date:	
Counter Signature Director:	
Date:	