

Funding for projects in community-led plans

FAQs

August 2024

The Place Programme is a collaborative, joined-up approach to designing good quality places. It brings together three strands:

- The invitation for communities to register Local Place Plans, which will inform spatial planning of our towns, villages and rural landscape;
- Community-led action, with statutory and other funding available for such projects which feature in community-led plans;
- A community planning approach to service delivery, with aspects of community-led plans such as improvements to public transport, roads, health and education informing the design of these services.

But how does this work in practice and how can community-led plans such as Local Place Plans, Community Action Plans or Town / Community Investment Plans influence the allocation of funds and budgets which are held by Scottish Borders Council?

Question (BCA – on behalf of community)	Answer / response (SBC)
We already have a current Community Action Plan and do not wish to rework it into an eligible Local Place Plan. Can we still use this to back funding applications for projects and to inform service delivery?	Yes. The action plan shows the community needs and it can be used to support applications for funding that the council administers.
Town / Community Investment Plans are necessary for Borderlands towns (Jedburgh, Galashiels, Hawick and Eyemouth), but how do core teams from other places determine if one is needed?	Investment Plans are only required for the Borderlands Places to support the request for funding accessible through this programme. It forms an overarching business case providing the strategic case for the investment i.e. how the themes and projects identified in a Plan tie back to national, regional and local government policies. It also covers the who, and then how projects would be delivered. An assessment of the economic benefit of the proposed investment is also required for the investment plan proving that any proposed funding would provide a positive benefit cost ratio in terms of cost in against

	<p>economic and social benefits out. Other towns are not required to produce an investment plan but a developed action plan with good strategic information where your group is, what the ambitions are and how you will get there, can be a good tool for supporting applications for any future funding.</p>
<p>Where is a Town / Community Investment Plan registered for non-Borderlands towns / communities?</p>	<p>There is no facility to register town action plans or community investment plans at this point. Place making is being reviewed amongst services in the council currently and officers are considering how this can be facilitated going forward to ensure the relevant council departments are aware of communities needs to allow them to consider these when developing council strategic investment plans.</p>
<p>Can we submit our community-led plan to the EOI for consideration of all the projects within it or do we need to do a separate submission for each project?</p>	<p>Separate submissions are required as there will be different delivery partners, objectives, outputs and outcomes for each project. Developed projects with an identified delivery lead, project brief, developed costs and statutory consents in place, will be prioritized submitted through the EOI process. Appropriate feedback will be provided to those that don't meet the criteria for an SBC funding application and officer support will be given (where appropriate or when capacity allows) to help groups work up their ideas.</p>
<p>Which funds are signposted to from the EOI (Expression of Interest) form?</p>	<p>The expression of interest form allows projects to be appraised against funding administered by the council i.e. Shared Prosperity Fund, Community Led Local Development fund (LAG approve), No One Left Behind (LEP approve) Place based Investment (Paused no guarantee of future funding), Neighbourhood Support Fund and Community Enhancement Fund. South of Scotland Enterprise and the national lottery also review applications.</p>
<p>Where can I find grant criteria and funding deadlines for all the funds held by SBC?</p>	<p>Community grants and funding – Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</p>

	<p>We encourage applicants to apply via the EOI system. This is because the application guidance and criteria can be overwhelming and complicated, so we take that pressure away by reviewing all the project at EOI stage across the various criteria of all funds to ascertain which one is a best fit. Time can be wasted filing in lengthy applications for a specific fund that may not be eligible. We are currently reviewing the EOI process and have provided updated application forms on the website. We intend to update the website to make it more user-friendly giving overviews of the funding criteria which may guide an applicant to make that submission. If groups are looking for low value grants, they may wish to apply direct to the Neighbourhood Support Fund or Community Enhancement Fund – details are available on the website. The website also shows the deadlines for any specific fund.</p> <p>As the CLLD fund is administered by the council on behalf of the LAG, the guidance for CLLD sits here LAG Funding Programme 2024-25 Local Action Group Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk) again we aim to update signposting as part of the website refresh.</p>
<p>How “worked-up” does a project need to be before applying through the EOI?</p>	<p>It helps to have as many of the answers on the attached EOI form completed as possible but if you can’t don’t worry, we can come back to you to help you tease these out.</p> <p>Project funding Expression of Interest form Scottish Borders Council (scotborders.gov.uk)</p> <p>Every project is different. For instance, you may be requesting funding for a feasibility study. For this, Info regarding the project including what impacts it intends to make and benefits would be required. Who are the intended beneficiaries of the project?</p>

	<p>For a capital investment for an extension to a building or the redevelopment of one you may wish to apply for funding to get you through design stage and planning. If you want funds to carry out the works, we would expect a building warrant and planning to be in place and a contractor tendered. These are just examples, and all projects differ.</p>
<p>We have identified a community priority which requires a large-scale intervention (e.g. a car park or electric charging infrastructure), but there is no community organisation willing to take on the project. How do we use our community-led plan to lead to action?</p>	<p>As noted previously we are looking into how we can use them to inform future development within the council. We are looking at a way to get services involved early to give advice and feedback on aspirations.</p> <p>We would also want to support groups to point them in the direction of other agencies i.e. SOSE, private businesses, landowners (Duke of Buccleuch).</p> <p>There is third sector support at BCA to help create groups to take forward these projects.</p>
<p>Our community-led plan has recommendations for changes to delivery of services (e.g. greater accessibility to health provision, further education or public transport). How and where can these be registered? How would the community be involved in decisions about delivery?</p>	<p>We are looking into this. Working with the community planning partnership and other internal and external services to see how this could work. Further consultation and comm engagement would be required to support any funding application internally or externally.</p>
<p>Would a group who have taken on an asset, either purchased or leased, be eligible to apply for funding from SBC who have transferred the asset?</p>	<p>This would depend on the conditions of the grant or sale but it may be possible to apply to SBC for funding. Officers can help groups to explore any funding opportunities.</p>
<p>Who will decide whether my application is to be granted funding?</p>	<p>This depends on the fund. SBC's small grants scheme – the Neighbourhood Support Fund – is assessed by community assessment panels and a decision made at Area Partnership meetings. Other funds, such as CLLD, have a panel made up of different partners.</p>