

**Updated 13.05.2019**

## **Voting FAQs**

### **Who can vote?**

You can only vote if you live in the Scottish Borders and are aged 16 years and over.

### **How can I vote?**

You can vote online, by post or at a voting event.

### **How do I vote online?**

You need to register on our [online voting tool](#). You will receive a confirmation email from Consul asking you to confirm your registration by clicking on the link in the email. You will be able to cast your vote on Consul between midday on 16<sup>th</sup> May until midday on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Find out how to register online for the public vote [on our website](#) or you can [watch the YouTube video](#).

### **How do I vote by post?**

If you would like to be sent a postal ballot paper please contact us by emailing [communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk), by phoning 0300 100 1800 or you can write in to: Communities & Partnership Team, Council Headquarters, Newtown St. Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA. Postal ballots must be returned by Thursday 6th June 2019.

[Sample ballot papers](#)

### **Where are the voting events?**

There will be one voting event per locality:

- Berwickshire: Saturday 25 May, 10am – 2pm at Eyemouth Community Centre
- Cheviot: Saturday 18 May, 10am – 2pm at Royal British Legion in Jedburgh
- Eildon: Saturday 1 June, 10am – 2pm at MacArts in Galashiels
- Teviot and Liddesdale: Saturday 18 May, 10am – 2pm at Lesser Town Hall, Hawick
- Tweeddale: Saturday 1 June, 10am – 2pm at the Old Parish Church in Peebles

Projects will have a stall at the voting events so you can chat with them to find out more about their idea. You can vote on the day if you wish or vote online or by ballot paper after the event.

### **How do I know which area to vote in?**

Your postcode will determine which area you will vote in. Use our [Find It](#) tool to find out which Locality you live in. If you are voting by post, we will provide you with the correct postal voting form.

### **Can I vote in more than one area?**

No, you can only vote in the area where you live.

## What information do I need in order to be able to vote?

When the public vote opens we will need to verify your details, we need your:

- full name
- full address
- postcode
- date of birth (dd/mm/yy)

## Where can I get information about the projects that I'm voting on?

A summary of each project is available on [our website](#) and on our [online voting tool](#). Project are also attending the local voting events. If you want more information about any of the projects please contact us at [communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk) or on 0300 100 1800.

## What happens if I can't get to a voting event?

You can vote online or by ballot paper between 16<sup>th</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> June.

## Can I vote for more than one project in my area?

Yes, you will have a mandatory number of votes to cast, this means that you will have to use all the votes you are given. The number of mandatory votes is dependent on the number of projects in your locality/area going forward to the public vote:

- Berwickshire: you cast 5 votes across 19 projects
- Cheviot: you cast 3 votes across 8 projects
- Eildon: you cast 6 votes across 21 projects
- Teviot & Liddesdale: you cast 3 votes across 8 projects
- Tweeddale: you cast 5 votes across 18 projects

You must cast **all** your mandatory votes, if not your vote will not count.

## Can projects request ballot papers to give out to people in their community?

No. Each ballot paper has a serial number which will be recorded against the home address that the ballot paper is sent to. For this reason, projects are not able to hand out ballot papers but they can provide us with the names and addresses of those who wish to receive a ballot paper and have consented to have their contact details shared with us. We will then post out a ballot paper directly to them.

## I've registered online but have not been asked to confirm where I live?

You will be asked to provide your full name, full address, postcode and date of birth when verifying yourself to vote when voting opens on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

## How did you decide how many votes can be cast?

The number of votes allocated per voter depends on the number of projects in your area to ensure that the process is as fair as possible. Mandatory voting encourages votes to be spread across a number of projects (not just one project) and each vote is weighted equally.

## **Will there only be one successful winner or will there be 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc.?**

The project that gets the most votes will receive the funding it has asked for and then the second most popular project and so on until the amount of funding available has been spent.

## **Surely people will vote for projects near them rather than those further away?**

Studies have shown that when people have more than one vote to cast they choose a project nearest to them and others that are of broader community interest. Mandatory voting encourages the voter to spread their votes.

## **Can I vote for the projects in order, i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd?**

No, all votes carry the same weight.

## **If projects submit applications for a large amount of money, which swallows up most of the available pot, will they receive all of what they have asked for?**

Yes they will. This fund is piloting Participatory Budgeting which means the community decides which projects are to be funded. It will be up to the community in each area of the Scottish Borders to decide which projects they wish to allocate funding to and which they do not. Our Communities & Partnerships Team will assist projects who are not successful to identify potential alternative funding options.

## **When will we know the result of the public vote?**

We anticipate announcing the successful projects in June/July 2019.

## **How do I get people to vote?**

You can encourage people in your community to vote in various ways e.g. word of mouth, promotional flyers, social media (such as Facebook/Twitter/Linkedin) or, community events. It is your project and it is up to you how you promote it within your community. We have prepared [a few suggestions to get you started](#).

## **Why should I get involved in voting?**

Participatory budgeting will be used as a way for communities to have more control and ownership of what happens in their local area. This pilot is helping us to plan for the future by understanding what works and what could be improved.

Localities Bid Fund is your opportunity to influence what activities are delivered in your area now!

## **Can I change my vote?**

If you make a mistake on your ballot paper you can request a new ballot paper.

## **Will SBC promote my project?**

We will be regularly promoting the Localities Bid Fund Vote via social media, the local press, and [our website](#). It is up to each bidding organisation to promote their own project and get their community behind them.

## **When will successful projects receive their funding?**

Once the results of the vote are known, our Communities and Partnerships team will work with the successful projects to prepare for the start of their project

## **General FAQs**

### **What is the Localities Bid Fund all about?**

We have allocated a total of £500,000 to a pilot Localities Bid Fund across the Scottish Borders. The Fund was designed to support community projects and initiatives across the Borders that address local priorities and benefit your community. The Fund was split across the five Area Partnerships and support community activities decided by a public vote. The first round has already taken place and approximately £204,000 is in the process of being awarded to communities within the Scottish Borders.

### **How much is available in each area?**

The balance of £296,000 is split across each area as follows:

- Berwickshire - £48,374.30
- Cheviot - £50,568.20
- Eildon - £119,802.30
- Teviot & Liddesdale £40,080.30
- Tweeddale £61,416.20

### **How much can my project bid for?**

- Non-constituted groups can bid for up to £5,000.
- Constituted groups can bid for up to £15,000.

### **What do you mean by 'constituted' and 'non-constituted'?**

A constitution is a written agreement of what a group is going to do and how they will do it. In basic terms, a constitution is simply a set of written rules, effectively the 'instruction manual', or an agreement governing the aims of the organisation, how it will be run and how the members will work together. The group is run on a voluntary basis and is set up as an organisation in its own right with a management committee, constitution and its own bank account.

### **What won't we fund?**

LBF2 will not fund:

- Trips abroad
- Activities which only benefit individuals
- Organisations who aim to make a profit
- Political or religious activities
- Any retrospective costs already incurred by the applicant
- Projects that disadvantage any groups or individuals in the community

- Public sector provision that is required by statute (law)
- Payments towards areas generally understood to be the responsibility of statutory authorities, including schools, i.e. projects that take place in school, during school hours and/or only for the benefit of the pupils will not be considered. PTAs/Parent Councils can apply, but must evidence the project has genuine wider community benefit outwith the school
- Projects not aligned to Council and/or Community Planning Partnership policies, strategies and priorities
- Applications from groups based outwith the Scottish Borders.

A maximum of 50% of your application costs can be used for staffing/salary/consultants/external trainers, but cannot be used to fund core staffing activity/time.

If your idea or project is not supported by the Localities Bid Fund please get in touch with us as there may be more appropriate funding.

## **What is to stop the larger towns winning all of the votes?**

In the first round of the Localities Bid fund we found that the projects that had undertaken a lot of marketing/campaigning in the area were successful - irrespective of the size of their town/village.

## **Is this fund to replace Council Services?**

No, we are looking to give communities the opportunity to identify and deliver projects that are important to them in their local community.

## **How is this different from the Community Grant Scheme or other SBC Community grant funds?**

The Localities Bid Fund is very different from any other community grant funds in that the process is Participatory Budgeting, which means the public will vote and therefore ultimately decide on whom the funding is allocated to. It is our job to engage communities, increase their awareness of the fund and help them to see that it's an exciting, new process which ultimately allows them to decide what they want.

## **How can I find out more about the Localities Bid Fund?**

More information is available [on our website](#).

## **If my bid is unsuccessful at the Community Vote will there be other options for funding?**

Yes, if you still wish to pursue your project you can discuss further options with the Communities & Partnerships Team

## **Further Information**

Further information is available:

- [on our website](#)
- by emailing [communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk)
- by calling 0300 100 1800