

---

**[OFFICIAL] Review of Financial Support to Community Councils - call for nominations**

---

**From** Community Engagement <CommunityEngagement@scotborders.gov.uk>

**Date** Tue 31/03/2026 09:04

**To** Malster, Clare <CMalster@scotborders.gov.uk>

Dear Community Council

You may be aware that it was three years since the financial support provided to community councils was reviewed. Following discussion by the working group the following recommendations were agreed and implemented in 2024/25:

- a) Increase the annual community council support grant by 10% representing a budget increase of £4,970,
- b) Review the annual support grant every three years,
- c) Limit spend of the annual support grant to operational matters in the first instance and other initiatives thereafter,
- d) Disallow community councils from using the annual support grant to fund third party organisations,
- e) Cover the cost of all community council insurance premiums, capped at the current level of assets and events, at an additional cost of approximately £6,000 for 2024/25 allowing for annual increases thereafter,
- f) Increase the maximum local community paths maintenance grant to £600 per applicant, representing a budget increase of £5,100,
- g) Officers to support a review of Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network to consider the establishment of locality-based networks in consultation with community councils,
- h) Maintain SBCCN annual grant at current level to be reviewed once the future of SBCCN has been agreed, and
- i) The wider support available to community councils to be reviewed.

With reference to recommendation g) above a review of options for a replacement for Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network (SBCCN) has been incorporated into the review of non-financial support which is currently taking place. With reference to recommendation h) above, no increase has been made to the SBCCN grant of £1,250 which has not been paid since 2021/2022.

Council agreed last week that the next review of financial support will take place in 2026/27 with a view to any changes being implemented in 2027/28. The Working Group carrying out the review will consist of Scottish Borders Councillors and Community Councillors. Councillor Cochrane, who will chair the Working Group, is working with Jenni Craig (Director – Resilient Communities) to appoint an Elected Member, from each locality, to the working group.

In order to appoint Community Councillors (one to represent each locality) to the Working Group, Community Councils are asked to consider nominating a Community Councillor from their membership to join the Working Group on behalf of the relevant locality.

It is expected that meetings will take place via MS Teams, early evening, approximately every six weeks and anticipated that the work will commence late May/early June with a view to taking any recommendations back to Council by the end of 2026 (calendar year).

If someone from your community council is both willing and able to take part, I would be grateful if you would forward me their name and email address by Monday 27 April. If there is more than one nomination in a locality the community council representative will be selected at random from those who applied.

Please send your nominations not: [communityengagement@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@scotborders.gov.uk)

Kind regards

Clare

Clare Malster  
Community Co-ordinator  
Communities and Partnerships Team, Resilient Communities  
Scottish Borders Council  
Tel: 01835 826626 (direct line)  
E-Mail: [cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk)  
Web | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#)

*How are you playing #yourpart to help us keep the Borders thriving?*



\*\*\*\*\* This email and any files transmitted with it are privileged, confidential and subject to copyright. Any unauthorised use or disclosure of any part of this email is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient please inform the sender immediately; you should then delete the email and remove any copies from your system. The views or opinions expressed in this communication may not necessarily be those of Scottish Borders Council. Please be advised that Scottish Borders Council's incoming and outgoing email is subject to regular monitoring and any email may require to be disclosed by the Council under the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 .

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* This email and any files transmitted with it are privileged, confidential and subject to copyright. Any unauthorised use or disclosure of any part of this email is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient please inform the sender immediately; you should then delete the email and remove any copies from your system. The views or opinions expressed in this communication may not necessarily be those of Scottish Borders Council. Please be advised that Scottish Borders Council's incoming and outgoing email is subject to regular monitoring and any email may require to be disclosed by the Council under the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 .

\*\*\*\*\*