

UK GOVERNMENT **SHARED PROSPERITY FUND** 2022-2025



Foreword

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) was introduced by UK Government in December 2022. The purpose of the fund was to help bridge the gap previously offered by European Union funding before Brexit took place in January 2020.

The fund focussed on 4 strands with the aim of levelling up all parts of the UK through boosting productivity, pay, jobs and living standards as well as improving services and empowering communities.

- Community & Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People & Skills
- Multiply

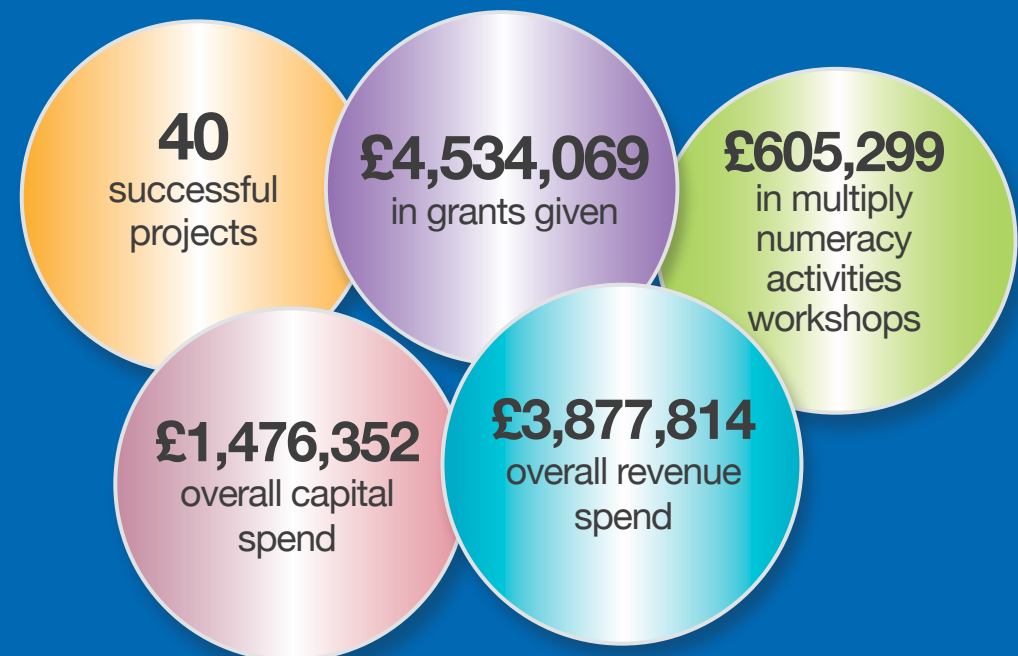
Local Authorities (LAs) were tasked with administering the fund across all areas in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. LAs had discretion to deliver SPF through direct award, open grant funding, commissioning, procurement of service provision or in-house provision.

Front Cover

International Tartans; HALO - A Living Museum for Future Generations; Fleece & Fibre Hub; Eyemouth Harbour – Masterplan for "South East Scotland Gateway"; Land Based Campus Development – Phase 1: Business Case

In December 2022, Scottish Borders was informed by UK Government that an allocation of £5,369,972 had been awarded. Over the 2 year period from January 2023 to end March 2025, a total of £5,354,166 was utilised. £4,534,069 was awarded to 40 projects across Scottish Borders delivering activities in the Community & Place, Supporting Local Business and People & Skills strands. A further £605,299 was awarded to Multiply and £214,798 covered management/administration undertaken by the LA.

Recommendations for funding were made by the Place Partnership Advisory Panel for Community & Place and Supporting Local Business projects and the Local Employability Partnership for People & Skills and Multiply. Decisions on funding were then made by the Director of Resilient Communities and the Director of Finance & Procurement in discussion with the Economic Development Elected Members Reference Group.



The Place Partnership Advisory Panel is made up of local organisations with expertise across a wide section of community and business strategies for the area including representatives from Scottish Borders Council, Live Borders, Borders College, South of Scotland Enterprise, Borders Community Action, Registered Social Landlords and Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce.

The Local Employability Partnership is made up of local organisations with expertise in development of employability skills such as Scottish Borders Council, Skills Development Scotland, South of Scotland Enterprise, Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber, Borders College, Heriot Watt University, NHS Borders, Registered Social Landlords, Developing Young Workforce and Borders Community Action.

The total **£5,354,166** administered is broken down as follows:-

Strand	No of Projects	Total Value of Grants Aarded
Community & Place	20	£2,115,174
Supporting Local Business	10	£1,310,863
People & Skills	10	£1,108,032
Multiply		£605,299
Management/Admin		£214,798
	TOTAL	£5,354,166

Where possible, identified project underspends were utilised through additional funding for capital projects which had incurred unexpected increases in cost of contractors or materials. This ensured capital projects were able to fully complete by the programme deadline of 31st March 2025.

The small underspend of £15,806 could not be utilised via projects as this was money directly associated to Multiply which could not be utilised elsewhere under the rules of the programme.

There follows a summary of the projects funded and the Outcomes achieved for the each supported by SPF funding.



Entrepreneurship & Business Support

PROJECTS - 2022-2025

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INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S2 Support/improve community assets and infrastructure projects & S3: Improvement to the natural environment, green and open space

PROJECT NAME: Holm Hill Active Leisure

[Newcastleton and District Community Trust – Live Newcastleton](#)

Organisation: Newcastleton & District Community Trust

Start Date: 11/07/2023

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £443,119

SPF Award: £303,119

Match Funding: £140,000

Project Summary:

The Active Leisure project in Newcastleton is part of a larger effort to create a sustainable rural economy. It focuses on improving physical, cultural, and social spaces in the community, with an emphasis on outdoor activities like mountain biking and walking. The goal is to build on the area's natural capital to attract tourists and generate income while keeping the control of assets local.

Phase 1 involved creating new outdoor facilities and improving green spaces to make Newcastleton a popular destination for outdoor recreation. The project is designed to benefit the local economy by tapping into tourism in nearby areas like Northumberland and Cumbria, which see over 1.25 million visitors a year.

The project has improved local trails and paths, including scenic walks, woodland and views. Collaboration with Forestry England now boosts cross-border tourism, and future plans include more trail expansions. Efforts are also underway to develop housing, social enterprises, and reduce flooding. Although plans for an Active Leisure Hub were paused due to high costs, the overall goal is to make Newcastleton a vibrant, attractive place for both residents and visitors.



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"The new paths and walks will add to visitor experience"

"Closing the 7stanes trails has had damaging impact on visitor footfall resulting in a significant loss of local spending damaging our local economy, businesses need regular incomes to provide secure employment and to continue to invest"

"New trails for walking and cycling will increase reasons to visit, providing them closer to the community will benefit everyone who lives here making them more accessible. People living here have to travel so far, but they now have attractions right on their doorstep"

Achievements:

- 301,400m2 of green space created / improved
- 1500m2 of land is wheelchair accessible
- 3 pathways, including 1 wheelchair accessible multiuse path
- 1 new facility for locals and visitors
- 4 new tourism assets created
- 60,000 trees planted

Through this project, we've seen a significant impact: facility usage has increased by an estimated 50%, footfall has risen by 75%, benefiting local shops and restaurants, and the use of paths shows a 100% increase.

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S2 Support/improve community assets and infrastructure projects & S5: Support sport, arts, cultural, heritage creative activities

PROJECT NAME: HALO - A Living Museum for Future Generations <https://www.trimontium.co.uk/the-trimontium-experience/>

Organisation: The Trimontium Trust

Start Date: 21/09/2023

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £70,789

SPF Award: £64,360

Match Funding: £6,429

Project Summary:

This project enabled provision of a VR experience, a unique offering in the Scottish Borders, that will immerse the visitor in Roman Iron Age Scotland through films and VR. A new Hands-on-History experience was also launched in which participants have a unique opportunity to handle authentic Roman artefacts guided by knowledgeable staff, bringing the story of Trimontium to life through storytelling, artefacts, and visual imagery.

A marketing campaign has also publicised the museum's new Heritage and Landscape Observatory. In the first year this space has been optimised to receive group visitors and offer an increasing number of engagement programmes, activities, and volunteering opportunities.

Workshops, talks and community programmes are also provided where participants can acquire work experience, technical and life skills, while fostering an open and safe space for socialisation and wellbeing.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"One adult and two children (under 10, one boy one girl) had THE BEST time at the new Hands on History event. We had visited the museum before but this really brought it alive - all the staff and particularly the leader of the workshop were hugely knowledgeable and so kind in bringing this period to life. Coming away having made our own Roman-style ring was a brilliant bonus. We would all thoroughly recommend even on a day that isn't super-rainy!!"

"We were lucky enough to be in only the second group to see the VR film of Trimontium Fort. It was amazing and a real trailblazer!"

"...the VR experience which was brilliant by the way - (other museums have got to catch up with this sort of thing because there is nothing quite like it)...Don't walk past this place - make sure you have enough time to throw yourself into the Roman world which was here."



Achievements:

- 2 jobs created, 5 jobs safeguarded
- 35% increase in footfall at the Museum
- 10 work experience placements supported
- 2 regular volunteer participatory activities supported
- 4 workshops offered to the public
- 3 new offers created – including digital technology (VR/projections)
- 30 people supported to engage in life skills
- Increase in volunteer opportunities (94) and people attending training
- 1 facility upgraded and improved
- 68% increase in visitor spending

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S2 Support and Improvement of community assets and infrastructure projects

PROJECT NAME: Oxton War Memorial Hall Enterprise Hub Project <https://www.facebook.com/OxtonHall>

Organisation: Oxton War Memorial Hall

Start Date: December 2024

Completion Date: March 2025

Total Project Costs: £588,001

SPF Award: £103,001

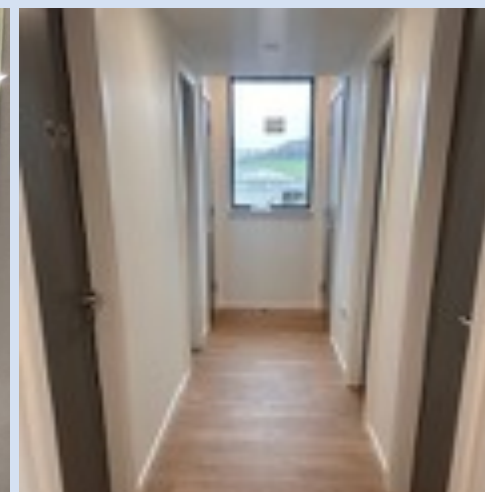
Match Funding: £485,000

Project Summary:

This project had been 7 years in the making and endured a number of setbacks including Covid and rocketing building costs requiring a pause for additional fund raising.

The project eventually commenced in December 2024 bringing enormous benefits to the village with a permanent home for the community owned and run village shop. It's also provided improved hall space with a new catering kitchen and modern toilet facilities plus new meeting room which also has remote working facilities including fibre broadband.

The facility will greatly enhance the village and surrounding areas. It has been badly needed for many years.



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"The Number One priority for the Village" - The Oxton Community Action Plan.

"The village has been needing improved hall facilities for years" - Village Survey 2019

Achievements:

The new community hub is now complete! Hurrah!

- 2 amenities/facilities created/improved
- 2 low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed
- 2 jobs safeguarded as a result of support
- 1 job created as a result of support
- 14 volunteering opportunities created as a result of support
- Income in shop sales has already increased by 25% since opening

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S2 Support and improvement of community assets and infrastructure projects

PROJECT NAME: West Wing Development Phase [The Haining House, Selkirk, TD7 5LR | Facebook](#)

Organisation: The Haining Charitable Trust

Start Date: 30/11/2023

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £440,037

SPF Award: £398,723

Match Funding: £41,314



Project Summary:

The project refurbished the west wing of the Haining Grade A Listed palladian Mansion House. Part of a total renovation of the house, the west wing phase included the installation of a commercial catering kitchen, a platform lift to all floors to provide full accessibility, toilets on all floors and a new link building to provide a link between the listed building and a state of the art marquee.

Significant structural work had to be undertaken including demolition of the original annexe and installation of new steel beams and stabilisation of bison concrete floors on the upper levels.

To enable public access, significant fireproofing was undertaken including upgrading of all doors and installation of fire proof doors into the kitchen and new link building, as well as fire proofing ceilings and the lift shaft. Due to the listed status of the house all ventilation, piping and drainage had to be concealed within the internal structure so as not to affect the external appearance of the building.

Achievements:

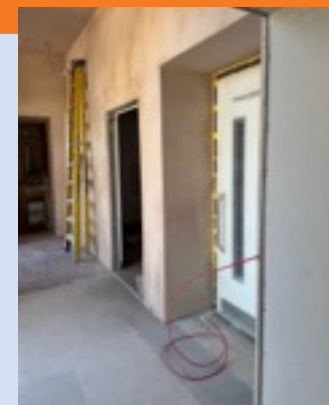
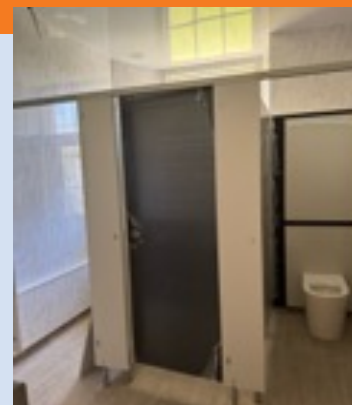
- 202m2 of public realm has been improved
- 1 heritage community asset has been improved
- 50 volunteering opportunities have been created
- Over 1000 individuals/users bookings confirmed to 31/03/2025
- Show rounds have confirmed 100% improvement of perception of facility
- 4 jobs planned for recruitment in next year

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"Looks amazing, what a transformation"

"Plenty rooms for different groups to meet, great venue x"

"Great job, considering the state it was in"



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S2 Support/Improve Community Assets & Infrastructure Projects; S10 Community measures to reduce the cost of living; S12 Digital Infrastructure for local community facilities

PROJECT NAME: Village Halls Net Zero Project **Organisation:** Borders Community Action

A video has been produced to illustrate an example of a village work which is now being used as part of the shared learning across the network: [TVH Retrofit - YouTube](#)

Start Date: 30/08/2024

Completion Date: 28/02/2025

Total Project Costs: £262,700

SPF Award: £242,540

Match Funding: £20,160

Project Summary:

This project builds on the successful CRF pilot, 'Bridging the Gap – Knowledge Transfer' project which built community capacity to upskill green skills and support decarbonisation of village halls/community facilities. There are 96 community spaces across the Borders overall and 16 village halls were ready for the next stage of capital development, with some already having started their journey. No halls are at the same stage of progression to net zero, and each individual Energy Audit/ Decarbonisation Plan identified required capital development unique to each individual hall.

This project created a fund for Village Halls to access to unlock potential, including Energy Assessments; Insulation Windows & Doors upgrades; Secondary glazing; Solar panels; Batteries; Air Source Heat Pumps and Digital Infrastructure. The project was co-ordinated by BCA working closely with the Federation of Village Halls.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"[BCA team] were great. They helped us through the application and kept things on track."

"The energy audit gave us a clear idea of what we needed to prioritise."

"We could plan the work in stages, which made it manageable."

"By doing the insulation and heating at the same time, we saved on costs and reduced disruption."

Achievements:

- 23 Energy Assessments Completed to provide insights and recommendations for energy efficiency improvements in community spaces
- 5 insulation upgrades funded to enhance thermal efficiency, reducing heat loss and lowering energy costs.
- 3 Windows & Doors Replacements Funded to improve insulation, reducing draughts and increasing overall energy performance.
- LED lighting installations to upgrade lighting systems for better energy efficiency and cost savings.
- 4 buildings had heating pumps/solar panels and batteries installed to increase heating efficiency and reduce reliance on conventional heating methods. Enhanced renewable energy capacity and storage, ensuring more sustainable energy use.
- 1 Smart controls installed enabling energy saving and avoiding energy waste.



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S2 Support/improve community assets and infrastructure projects

PROJECT NAME: Fleece & Fibre Hub

Organisation: At Birkhill House CiC

Start Date: 29/08/2024

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £156,641

SPF Award: £84,641

Match Funding: £72,000

Project Summary:

The construction of the hub and adjoining outdoor teaching space enabled categorisation and storage of our fleeces and a concerted space in which to host significantly larger workshops (up to 25-30), including school groups, who can learn about fibre processing from dirty fleece through to finished garment. Our fleece & fibre workshop programme places emphasis on traditional hand-processing techniques and the use of our own homegrown alpaca and sheep fibres, alongside donated fleeces of different breeds.

Our programme focuses on environmentally friendly ways to create finished products from natural, locally sourced materials and our natural dye garden also contributes to more eco-friendly ways to produce colour for our fleeces and donated fibre. This programme is aligned with the NHS's "Six Ways to be Well" framework. The build has been a sustainable one, using responsibly sourced renewable materials. The roof of both the hub and the canopy is loaded with solar panels, as we aim for carbon neutrality.

Achievements:

- 1 new amenity/facility has been created/improved
- 1 tourism, culture or heritage asset has been created or improved through traditional skills and endangered craft teaching
- 1 low or zero carbon energy infrastructure has been installed



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"A warm and inviting space where myself and my daughter (9 years old who is home educated), meet a wide variety of people, all keen to understand more about a much under valued product – fleece".

"The opportunity to learn about the different breeds, right through to washing, carding and spinning the fleece is a brilliant hands on session, which we truly hold a lot of value to".

"An art which should not be lost or forgotten At Birkhill are working wonders at opening the doors to anyone wishing to learn more."

"My daughter has grown in confidence and is constantly improving her skill set during these sessions, after a tough time in mainstream education".



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S2 Support/Improve community assets and infrastructure projects S3: Improvements to natural environment, green and open space

PROJECT NAME: Community Food Growing Space

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Start Date: 01/11/2023

Completion Date: 30/09/2024

Total Project Costs: £22,348

SPF Award: £20,108

Match Funding: £2,240

Project Summary:

Partnership project between Scottish Borders Council, three RSLs and Abundant Borders to set up a community food growing area in an unutilised area of Orchard Park, Kelso. Following community consultation on site and door to door, a garden was constructed reflecting the ideas and suggestions of local people. Abundant Borders provided liaison with schools, community groups and community members and raised beds and benches have been commissioned on site.

The garden officially opened on 26th April 2024. Growing workshops were subsequently hosted by Abundant Borders in May and will carry on indefinitely to upskill local community members in horticulture and use of produce to encourage healthy eating. The project partner agreed to keep the garden and add it to their portfolio of gardens that they manage in Kelso.

Achievements:

- 488m2 of unutilised green/blue space improved and rehabilitated
- 4 trees planted to improve biodiversity and enhance green space
- 24 volunteering opportunities have been supported through skills development provided by Abundant Borders
- 24 volunteering opportunities have been created for individuals and groups as a result of the creation of the garden
- 42 local people have been engaged through workshop/consultation activities



Orchard Park Kelso Community Garden - 'Shovel Day' - 10.04.24



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"The Orchard Park Community Garden has been a fantastic chance to meet up with all residents from the local area, not only our Waverley tenants, both through the early-stage promotions when we visited residents on their doorsteps, and later at our Consultation Day"

"This is a first-rate project turning a redundant, disused play park into a vibrant garden for all to enjoy. I hope it will provide hours of purpose, opportunity and fulfilment for the local community."

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S5 Support for sport, arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, facilities and institutions

PROJECT NAME: Leading the Way: Creating the European Capital for Mountain Biking

<https://dmbins.com/blog/spf-end-of-programme>

Organisation: Scottish Cycling

Start Date: July 2023

Completion Date: March 2025

Total Project Costs: £252,925

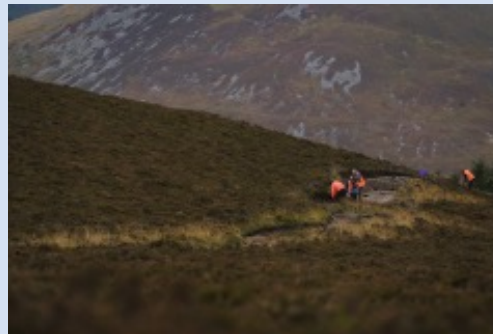
SPF Award: £252,925

Match Funding: £0

Project Summary:

The project focussed on the delivery of strategic and tactical improvements to mountain biking (MTB) facilities, infrastructure, and support across the Scottish Borders. This included areas such as the MTB Trails themselves through increased community led stewardship and volunteering opportunities, the businesses supporting (and supported by) mountain biking, events that drew in additional visitors, increased inclusivity, and support for development of the sport.

Further to this it provided expert knowledge, practical delivery, and teacher training into 3 high schools. This included delivering sessions to disengaged pupils, developing a new Nat 5 that will support young people to develop careers in this key pillar of the Scottish Borders economy.



Quotes from beneficiaries:

'The DMBinS Regional Coordinator role has been supportive with SOSE's work in a number of areas, in particular the Women in Industry event that SOSE sponsored was fantastic and led to a number of positive outcomes. More recently the collaboration to deliver First Tracks Incubator Programme has been another great success. The DMBinS trail coordinator role has supported community groups and education objectives that align well and strongly support work SOSE is delivering.'

"DMBinS regional coordinators have been a great asset to Peebles High School by providing support with classes in trail building delivery and enthusing students in all aspects of mountain biking. They have worked with myself with great vision and ideas to create a new level 5 SVQ qualification in mountain biking. Peebles High school are very excited about offering this to their students and delivering this in the near future. The course should provide a real opportunity for students to learn about the many job opportunities that exists in the biking sector".

Achievements:

- Over 20km of new or improved MTB trails delivered
- 361 volunteering opportunities created
- 83 people attended training sessions
- 51 people gained a qualification
- 55 businesses and 17 organisations gained non financial support,
- 12 businesses assisted to be enterprise ready
- 2 part time roles created,
- The launch of a First Tracks business incubator,
- £60,000 of inward investment from Specialized Outrides into the Borders Trail Therapy Hub
- Destination exposure via work with online influencers (273,000 online views to date), ongoing development of the Tweed Valley MTB Stakeholder group.

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S5 Support sport, arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities

PROJECT NAME: Gunsgreen – A New Future

Organisation: Gunsgreen House Trust

Start Date: 01/12/2023

Completion Date: 24/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £55,000

SPF Award: £45,000

Match Funding: £10,000

Project Summary:

The project appointed a professional company to produce a fundraising feasibility review and fundraising plan to provide a clear narrative and case to support discussion with potential fundraisers for a Gunsgreen House capital project.

This enabled submission of Expressions of Interest to 3 key funding sources and approval to proceed to stage one development of one full application process. The project also included engagement with local community groups, staff and local agencies to develop the initial thinking and scope, involvement in wider local community initiatives, provision of volunteering opportunities.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"Gunsgreen House is an extremely valuable property to the town in terms of its design and history and in telling the story of smuggling in Eyemouth. It already seemed to me to be a great visitor attraction and it's rather that the layout of some of the building itself and damage caused to it by extreme weather that has caused the issues, not that the visitor attraction was not good. Any enhancement would of course be of benefit, but not sure personally what this could look like"

Achievements:

- 16 events/participatory programmes were delivered
- 1322 people were engaged
- 8 feasibility studies were completed
- 6 projects are now being taken forward
- 10 volunteering opportunities linked specifically to our events programme were supported
- 2 jobs were safeguarded



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S6 Active Travel Enhancement & Small Scale Transport Projects

PROJECT NAME: Rural Taxi-bus Pilot Project

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Start Date: July 2024

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £27,103

SPF Award: £27,103

Match Funding: £0

Project Summary:

In July 2024, Scottish Borders Council implemented a Taxi bus pilot in the Selkirkshire locality. The purpose of the Taxi bus was to link in communities that have no access to public transport, into the wider bus network for onward travel.

Over the 8 months of the pilot, the communities of Lilliesleaf and Ettrickbridge had access to the wider bus network in the Scottish Borders through a mixture of daytime and evening services which also provided connections to the Borders General hospital and Bowhill House.

The postcodes that benefitted from the Selkirk pilot were TD6 and TD7

Unfortunately, driver shortages and lack of available operators prevented the pilots in Newcastleton and Jedburgh taking place however the Selkirk pilot has provided valuable data which will now be used to help shape future service provision.



Achievements:

- 338 Passengers experienced improved accessibility
- 156 Additional Bus Journeys undertaken
- 4 neighbourhood improvements undertaken

Quotes from beneficiaries:

'It encourages me to do different activities - I usually use the bus to go bowling and swimming because I can get there conveniently. Both are activities I can't do in the village. I also use Selkirk more for coffee and meal out. These activities may drop a bit if I don't have the regularity of the bus. I'm aware of people that have moved out of the village when they can no longer drive, and I don't want to have to make this decision if there is no bus and I can no longer drive.'

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S6 Active Travel Enhancement & Small Scale Transport Projects

PROJECT NAME: Borders Greenway Active Travel – Chirnside to Reston Active Travel Route

Organisation: A Heart for Duns (on behalf of Borders Greenway)

Start Date: 01/08/2024

Completion Date: 28/02/2025

Total Project Costs: £124,895

SPF Award: £112,200

Match Funding: £12,695



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"This is a must to achieve and complete to give people the opportunity to enjoy the countryside and be safe away from the road"

"Anything that provides safe traffic free zones in our stunning countryside is of great benefits to communities, especially appreciated as a horse rider/cyclist with outdoors children!"

"A green route linked to a village (Reston) with a train station – fabulous"

Achievements:

- 1 preliminary design report to progress project to final design phase
- 2 community engagement events (113 attended in total)
- 2 primary school engagement events/ STEM lessons in Chirnside and Reston
- Agreement on long-term collaboration with Berwickshire High School
- 1500 information leaflets printed and distributed to each household in Reston (200) and Chirnside (800) as well as through community venues
- 440 responses to bespoke project survey:
 - 70% agree or strongly agree that the route will directly improve active travel opportunities **for them**
 - 78% agree or strongly agree that the route will directly improve active travel opportunities for all in the wider community

Project Summary:

This project carried out preliminary design work for the Reston to Chirnside section of the proposed Borders Greenway multi-use path from Eyemouth to Tweedbank. The primary objectives of the wider project include connecting communities, encouraging sustainable tourism and promoting green businesses.

External consultants delivered landowner mapping and engagement, preliminary path design, inspections of bridges, drainage strategy, ecological appraisal and construction cost estimates. The Borders Greenway Steering group, consisting of volunteers representing different community groups across the Borders, has directed this project and took the lead on a number of community engagement and outreach events, including community consultation meetings, group walks and local school visits.

Overall, through the plethora of community engagement events and survey data, the response to the project has been overwhelmingly positive.

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S9 Investment in Capacity Building and Resilience for Local Groups

PROJECT NAME: Keeping it Clean

Organisation: The Hub Innerleithen CIC

Start Date: 01/08/2024

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £19,483

SPF Award: £18,380

Match Funding: £1,103

Project Summary:

The purpose of this project was to provide initial cleaning and project manager costs to develop a management strategy which would enable redeveloped toilet/shower facilities towards sustainability for the future. This would look into integrated contactless payment and timing systems at the building to self finance the running of the facility. Unfortunately delays occurred with Building Warrant for the works which had a knock on effect with tendering but the refurbishment was finally completed in April 2025.

Although we were unable to employ cleaning staff as planned we were able to progress forward with project management activities and there is strong community support to be able to offer 2 part-time positions in the near future.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

'Project will provide a much needed facility for the town and will relieve pressure on the community and surrounding environment'

Achievements:

- 3 volunteers recruited
- 1 job safeguarded by the grant
- 2 part-time staff expect to be recruited after the grant period, despite hold ups with the refurbishment



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S9 Investment in capacity building and resilience for local groups

PROJECT NAME: Borderlands Community Place Plans & Town Investment Plans

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Start Date: 11/08/2023

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £158,130

SPF Award: £139,065

Match Funding: £19,065

Project Summary:

This project created Local Place Plans and Town Investment Plans for the towns of Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Jedburgh to enable them to develop Town Investment Plans and the opportunity to access larger town development investment from Borderlands funding.

The creation of the Local Place Plans will allow each town to drive forward town centre and economic development projects to meet the needs of each individual town. The plans will also assist in attracting external and other local funding for community projects and services in their areas.”

Achievements:

- 4 place plans were developed as a result of this project
- 4 projects have arisen as a result of these plans being produced (i.e. the investment plans)
- 4 towns have been invested in
- 4 organisations have received grants to produce their own plans
- 20 organisations have received non financial support



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S9 Investment in capacity building and resilience for local groups

PROJECT NAME: Community Led Place Plans Support

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Start Date: 11/08/2023

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £132,856

SPF Award: £115,021

Match Funding: £17,834

Project Summary:

This project provided funding to assist 49 local communities to develop community-led place plans, working in collaboration with Scottish Borders Council and Borders Community Action.

The creation of these plans will allow each community to drive forward project development to meet the needs of each areas. The plans will also assist in attracting external and other local funding for these community-led projects.

Achievements:

- 2 place plans were developed as a result of this project
- 36 projects have arisen as a result of these plans being produced
- 49 local communities have received non financial support
- 100 organisations have been involved in knowledge transfer
- 15 organisations have received grants to produce their own plans



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S10 Community measures to reduce the cost of living

PROJECT NAME: Regional Energy Masterplan

Organisation: Capital City Partnership

Start Date: September 2024

Completion Date: March 2025

Total Project Costs: £183,000

SPF Award: £20,000

Match Funding: £163,000

Project Summary:

This project aimed to consolidate local energy-related data into a single regional data source. This would allow regional partners to identify the best course of action, across innovation, investment, policy, and development in key technologies to achieve the key long-term goal of decarbonisation. The project covered 4 elements: Data Sharing Agreement; GIS Mapping; Archetypes and Skills.

The key element to this project was getting the first Data Sharing Agreement signed to ensure two of the projects could progress (GIS Mapping and Archetypes). Gaining access to this data set in such a short period of time could not be achieved without the collaborative approach adopted.

Achievements:

- 4 events/participatory programmes delivered
- 3 feasibility studies produced as a result of support
- 4 projects have been identified as a result of the feasibility
- Data from 6 Local Authorities available in an interactive environment to support engagement across net zero projects. Local authorities already have access to Home Analytics with more usable visuals and contextual data to build up a more holistic view of necessary infrastructure transitions for net zero
- Regional datasets now integrated into GIS map to build a more complete picture of the region
- More streamlined process developed to more easily maintain mapping in the future

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"The project management and connector support provided by CCP in organising and connecting the councils has been invaluable in expanding the Edinburgh work to the surrounding local authorities. Without the CCP support, we would not be able to deliver the mapping project at scale on this accelerated timeline."



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S11 Relevant Feasibility Studies

PROJECT NAME: AHFD Development Planning

[Development Plans – A Heart for Duns](#)

Organisation: A Heart for Duns

Start Date: October 2023

Completion Date: January 2025

Total Project Costs: £44,770

SPF Award: £41,940

Match Funding: £2,830

Project Summary:

We sought UK SPF investment into a design and consultation project for the Volunteer Hall to include project planning for large scale future development.

We inherited an older building from the local authority in 2018, which has already had substantial investment into heating, lighting, ceiling and control systems. This project sought to design a community owned and managed hall with built in resilience to become a destination venue. The project developed robust community consultation and linked management process, focussing on culture and betterment to improve our town environment to support arts and culture organisations as well as local businesses.

The new design drawings have proved to be welcome and very popular.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"We'd like the work to happen soon, as we know it was planned before Covid, and while we love the hall, we know it needs to have a better layout and look better"

"Can the hall include a better bar, a café and an improved kitchen"

"We'd love the design to include more workspaces, including hotdesking"

"Stop asking us what we want and get on with it"

Achievements:

- 1 feasibility study undertaken to progress project to next stage
- 1 facility supported
- 268 community events - engaged in consultation with local community
- 145 volunteering opportunities for catering, bar work, stage setup, administration, ticketing and community planting
- 276 people involved in engagement through ask-the-audience, consultation and targeted event invites
- 446 additional users of the facility as a result of the project
- 15 community led art, culture and heritage events



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S11 Relevant Feasibility Studies

PROJECT NAME: Regional Home Demonstrator Project <https://edinburgh-home-demonstrator.org/>

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Start Date: September 2023

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £320,000

SPF Award: £30,000

Match Funding: £290,000

Project Summary:

The Regional Home Demonstrator Project aimed to accelerate the delivery of affordable housing and housing across all tenures, enable the development of 7 major strategic housing sites in Edinburgh and South East Scotland, and drive efficiencies across the public sector estate.

The project has supported partners to start addressing current and future challenges, including design and performance standards for net zero homes, enabling greater use of off-site construction, and facilitating more collaborative approaches to procurement and delivery to drive cost and carbon efficiencies.

Specific activities have included (but are not limited to):

- Development of key regional documents (e.g. Briefing, Procurement, etc).
- Development of Annual Regional Pipeline
- Ongoing work to develop pre-application planning strategies with Councils
- Setting up a Regional Knowledge Hub
- Identification of Funding Resources



Achievements:

- One participatory event has been delivered.
- 12 feasibility studies have been delivered
- 6 organisations have engaged in knowledge transfer
- 6 local authorities have engaged in knowledge transfer
- 11 Registered Social Landlords have engaged in knowledge transfer

Future progression is expected to deliver:

- A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (100% lower than the Target Emission Rate set by 2010 Building Standards). As of the end of Year 2 the % reduction in greenhouse gases is still being confirmed through pilot project monitoring.

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S11 Relevant Feasibility Studies

PROJECT NAME: Climate Risk Assessment Opportunity (CROA)

Organisation: Capital City Partnership

Start Date: 12/12/2023

Completion Date: 28/02/2025

Total Project Costs: £306,000

SPF Award: £51,000

Match Funding: £255,000

Project Summary:

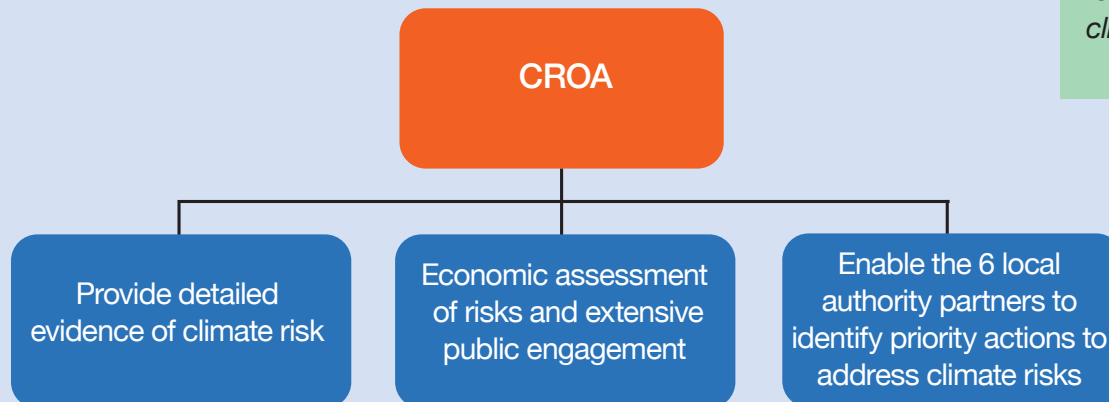
As part of a wider City Regional Deal plan, this project will provide a Climate Risk Opportunity Assessment for Scottish Borders as well as other areas in the partnership. It provides detailed evidence of climate risks and an economic assessment of risks incorporating public engagement identifying gaps where more action is needed and enable evidence for more effective decision making on climate change projects. This is a partnership project with Edinburgh City Region partners including Fife, Midlothian, West Lothian, East Lothian, Edinburgh and Scottish Borders.

Achievements:

- One organisation received non-financial support
- 1 feasibility study developed as a result of support
- 8 organisations were engaged in knowledge transfer activity

Quotes from beneficiaries:

Being a partner in Climate Ready South East Scotland has been extremely valuable to Fife Council. Taking a regional approach to climate risks and opportunities has allowed us to pool our limited resources across the areas and get a clearer understanding of the climate challenges we all face” – Fife Council



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S11 Relevant Feasibility Studies

PROJECT NAME: Net Zero Accelerator Hub (NZAH)

Organisation: Capital City Partnership

Start Date: 12/12/2023

Completion Date: 28/02/2025

Total Project Costs: £112,654

SPF Award: £18,776

Match Funding: £93,878

Project Summary:

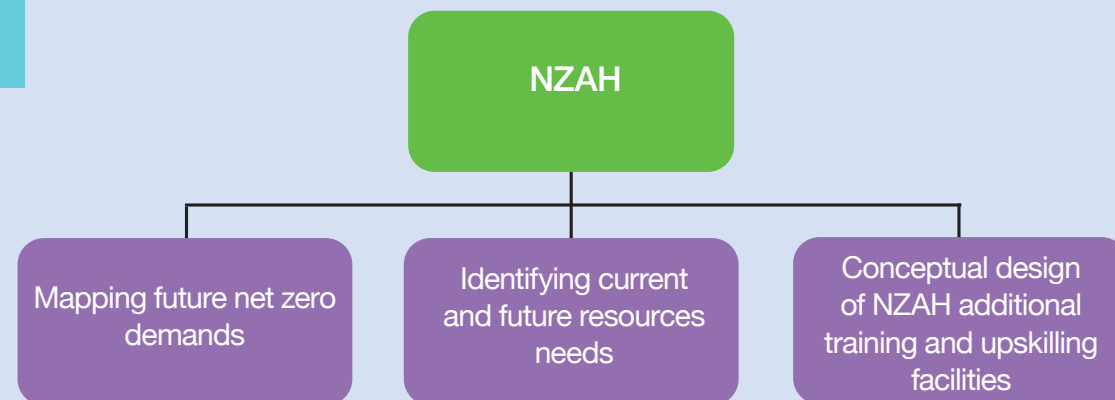
As part of a wider City Regional Deal plan, this project produced a feasibility study to support future development of the Net Zero Accelerator activity and transition to Net Zero. Recommendations from the study will enable all areas included to understand future need in their own areas and cover aspects such as skills shortages and new innovations. This was a partnership project with Edinburgh City Region partners including Fife, Midlothian, West Lothian, East Lothian, Edinburgh and Scottish Borders, with all partners contributing one sixth of the cost of the project.

Achievements:

- 4 events/participatory programmes undertaken
- 1 feasibility study developed as a result of support
- 2 enterprises were engaged in new markets

Quotes from beneficiaries:

Being a partner in Climate Ready South East Scotland has been extremely valuable to Fife Council. Taking a regional approach to climate risks and opportunities has allowed us to pool our limited resources across the areas and get a clearer understanding of the climate challenges we all face” – Fife Council



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: COMMUNITY & PLACE

Intervention: S12 Digital Infrastructure for Local Community Facilities

PROJECT NAME: Gladstone Go & Gladstone Pay
Organisation: Live Borders

Start Date: 12 Sept 2024

Completion Date: 27 Feb 2025

Total Project Costs: £39,620

SPF Award: £27,272

Match Funding: £12,348

Project Summary:

The purpose of the project was to deliver improved capabilities to the existing Gladstone sports booking and payments system through the implementation of GladstoneGo and Pay modules. This enhanced efficiency and delivered a seamless digital experience making sign up, booking and payment more streamlined for Live Borders members.

GladstoneGo simplifies the joining process, reducing barriers to access and improves the overall member experience helping drive income generation and increase customer retention.

GladstonePay provides enhanced payment solutions through the direct debit collection payment platform, removing the need for a third-party provider, improving operational effectiveness, moving to full control over direct debit collections, management and memberships. The introduction of Recuring Card Payment (RCP) provides members with a flexible, subscription-style payment method.

One system will deliver a holistic view with benefits of intelligent reporting assisting with future marketing and decision-making regarding demand for activities and new classes.

Achievements:

- 5,860 people reached during life of project
- 40 new subscriptions to this payment method since 27th Feb 2025
- 423 new App downloads since new Gladstone launch – approx. 6% improved engagement
- 33,187 bookings and 182 new members as a result of project

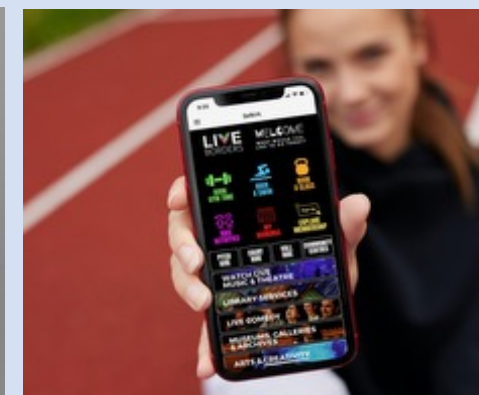
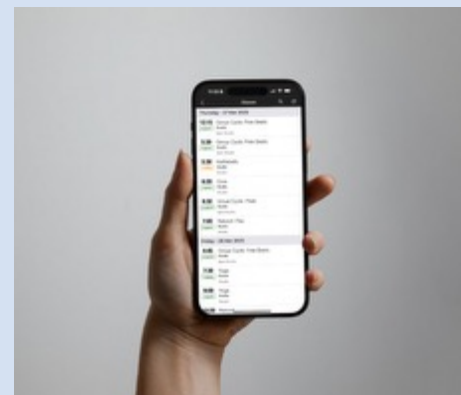
Quotes from beneficiaries:

*New online members –
27 Feb 2024-25 March 2024*

Join Date	(All)
Row Labels	Count of Payment Method
Cash	3
D.F.C	6
Direct Debit	36
(blank)	
Grand Total	45

*New online members –
27 Feb 2025-25 March 2025*

Join Date	(All)
Row Labels	Count of Payment Method
Cash	54
D.F.C	3
Direct Debit	47
RCP	33
(blank)	
Grand Total	137



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S14 development & promotion of the visitor economy

PROJECT NAME: Destination Tweed [Home - Destination Tweed : Destination Tweed](#)

Organisation: Tweed forum

Start Date: 26/09/2023

Completion Date: 31 March 2025

Total Project Costs: £161,277

SPF Award: £161,277

Match Funding: £0

Project Summary:

Led by Tweed Forum, and developed in collaboration with Scottish Borders Council, a range of project partners and landowners, Destination Tweed (DT) features creation of a 113-mile trail from Moffat, past the source of the Tweed nearby and on to Berwick upon Tweed where the river meets the sea.

This project funded a Senior Project Officer to support all aspects of delivery with particular focus on archaeology, interpretation/ Marketing, education and community grants; and a Tourism officer who sat with a partnership organisation, South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) and was dedicated to promoting the tourism potential.

Funding also supported resources for assets including an animated introductory film, web graphics package and targeted social media campaign.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"Shared Prosperity Funding has been instrumental in furthering multiple aspects of the Destination Tweed project. Support has ensured we had the person resource in place to deliver our Community Grants programme, Uncovering the Tweed archaeology project, Business engagement and multiple digital assets that will benefit communities and visitors"

Introductory Film created using SPF funds:

[Destination Tweed - Who We Are](#)

Achievements:

- 2 jobs created – one with a focus on DT initiatives such as community Grants and our Archaeology project. The other based with SSDA to engage with businesses.
- 325,100m2 of green or blue space created or improved
- 858m2 of new or improved cycleways and pathways

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S18 Investing in Enterprise and Infrastructure, site development projects

PROJECT NAME: Developing Enterprise Infrastructure – land at Duns Industrial Estate

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Start Date: 01/11/2023

Completion Date: 28/02/2025

Total Project Costs: £469,985

SPF Award: £454,867

Match Funding: £15,118

Project Summary:

Scottish Borders Council (SBC) led the design and delivery of enabling infrastructure to transform agricultural land into development-ready sites. The objective was to create a versatile platform capable of supporting a wide range of business types—from small and medium-sized enterprises to larger commercial operations.

The works included site levelling and the construction of a 9,611 m² engineered platform, designed to accommodate diverse future uses. SBC oversaw the full lifecycle of the project, including concept development, planning, and construction. Key infrastructure elements delivered as part of the scheme included ground improvement works, a new access road, and associated ancillary services.

This strategic investment has unlocked new economic opportunities by making the site immediately viable for commercial development.



Achievements:

- 9,611m² commercial space completed with 4,155m² land access
- 24 jobs safeguarded

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S20 Expert business advice and support programmes, local and regional

PROJECT NAME: Entrepreneurship & Business Support

Organisation: South of Scotland Enterprise

Start Date: 10/06/2024

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £247,982

SPF Award: £145,482

Match Funding: £102,500

Project Summary:

This project delivered a variety of activity across the Scottish Borders to drive entrepreneurship and business engagement.

Activity included: -

- Entrepreneurial events focus on Young People (pre-business gateway) - Games Week Event, E-Sport Events, Game Jam,
- Young Enterprise Coach to get individuals ready to realise their ambitions to start a business
- Digital expertise to support business to adopt new advances in technology including AI
- Women's Leadership and Management programme – designed for existing business founders and leaders in industry.
- Enterprise Pop up Sessions – placed based approach, these sessions are designed for a rural area, delivering business learning and networking to rural businesses, using local specialists and businesses to deliver high quality events. Activity is designed to encourage engagement with businesses who have not previously engaged with the public sector.



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"The programme is excellent; the tutor is extraordinary and full of insight about the wider business landscape." (Accelerate Programme)

"I feel empowered to implement data and AI solutions that will drive meaningful improvements in my organization" (Leveraging AI and Data for Business)

"This event was a great example of what esports can bring to our region. Working closely with our partners to widen participation in our schools has been a huge step forward. The students were engaged in the competition but were also inspired by relatable individuals who came along to support the day... the opportunities from this space are limitless." (Esports Event)

Achievements:

- 37 Events, 830 attendees of which 332 were unique
- 40% increase in businesses accessing support
- Strong partnerships developed with DYW, Borders College and the Chamber to ensure a joined-up pathway of enterprise support across Scottish Borders
- 700 Young People engaged through events
- 30 Young people accessed Youth Enterprise Coaching

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S20 Expert business advice and support programmes, local and regional

PROJECT NAME: Hawick Enterprise Centre – Business Accelerator Programme

Organisation: South of Scotland Enterprise

Start Date: November 2023

Completion Date: March 2025

Total Project Costs: £276,810

SPF Award: £101,810

Match Funding: £175,000

Project Summary:

The project formed a strategic partnership between Scottish Borders Council and South of Scotland Enterprise to furnish and fit out the space for Local businesses and entrepreneurs across the region to access, connect and learn, driving business growth and entrepreneurship.

The Centre provides short-term, working spaces and small bookable meeting rooms with modern video conference facilities for businesses as well as the wider community to use. There is also presentation space and a digital lab to provide users with advanced facilities such as podcast recording studio, live streaming and virtual reality headsets space to host SOSE's business accelerator programme for enterprises and businesses.



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"Accelerate had a huge impact on my business - it gave me the time and space to get clear on my plans, and confident in my brand and direction."

"It has instilled a tremendous sense of confidence in my ability to run a successful business. Strategy for growth is something I hadn't addressed, my approach before Accelerator was more follow my nose."

"The Accelerate programme has forced us to look at our business critically, and to work on the why of it - why do we do what we do, is it the right thing to do in our location, and who are we doing it for? These are all really difficult questions and have led to a lot of changes."

Achievements:

- Created an enterprising space in rural area
- Over 500 businesses accessing the centre facilities since May 2024
- 2 accelerator programmes delivered with 14 businesses supported
- 28 events held
- Positive feedback from the users of the building
- Independent evaluation currently being finalised and will be shared in April 2025
- Potential inward investment interested in using the centre for starting an exciting Tech/AI R & D project

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S20 Expert business advice and support programmes, local and regional

PROJECT NAME: Member Network Support & Promotion

Organisation: Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce

Start Date: 24 Nov 2023

Completion Date: 28 Feb 2025

Total Project Costs: £140,161

SPF Award: £108,761

Match Funding: £31,400

Project Summary:

This project aimed to create a sustainable Chamber and an effective support system for members and the wider business community. This was undertaken by recruitment of 1.5 FTE employees to undertake Member engagement, administer member processes effectively, undertake wider business community engagement, local media presence and advocating for and strengthening the voice of business.

The work also covered engagement with other Chambers, local organisations and government agencies to avoid duplication and highlight gaps in provision of support and services. They also looked to secure income streams, partnerships and sponsor payments for long term.



Achievements:

- 41 events/participatory programmes were carried out
- 356 people attended training sessions
- 120 businesses received non financial support
- 130 additional businesses were supported
- 3 businesses were assisted to increase their export capability
- 10 businesses engaged in new markets
- 50 potential entrepreneurs were assisted to be business ready

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"As a small, family-run business, Lisa finds membership in the Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce particularly valuable. "It's hugely important to me," she says. "Running a business, especially in a rural area like the Borders, can be quite isolating. Having events that bring people together is fantastic, and it's great to be able to reach out to Roz, Trevor, and the team whenever I need advice." Lisa concludes: "It's reassuring to know you're not alone, and if they don't have the answers, they'll find them for you."

"I have found the contact and engagement from Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce to be invaluable. The networking events that I have attended have resulted in my making connections with likeminded people and businesses in order to make a difference. I have to say that events organised through the Chamber have been efficient, professional and friendly. I am not sure what I would have done without the advice from Roz in the past 6 months since we joined the SBCoC. She is always available to answer questions. Her introductions and knowledges of systems has been second to none. Absolutely invaluable."

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S20 Expert business advice and support programmes, local and regional

PROJECT NAME: SME AI Transformation Programme <https://thisiscodebase.com/services/programmes/ai-navigator/>

Organisation: CodeBase

Start Date: 26/11/2024

Completion Date: 28/02/2025

Total Project Costs: £62,000

SPF Award: £50,000

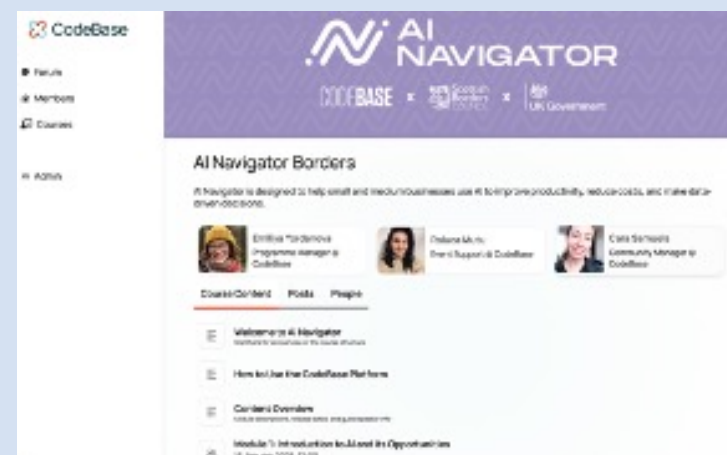
Match Funding: £12,000

Project Summary:

AI Navigator was a short course designed to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) to small businesses in the Scottish Borders. The course comprised of five modules, covering how to use AI tools and techniques across different aspects of a small business, including sales, marketing, operations and data management. Each module was delivered by a different AI expert, providing diverse perspectives from fellow business owners, consultants and technology leaders. Participants from ten businesses were exposed to many new tools and frameworks to help guide sustainable and efficient implementation of AI across the business.

To deliver this course, CodeBase's software development team created a customised learning management system (LMS) so participants could access course content in an accessible, streamlined and engaging way.

All course content will be available for participants to access and use until September 2025, to ensure participants have time to implement their learnings now the programme has concluded.



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"Easy to follow and merged technical insights with "the why" businesses need to become data centric"

"Explained the background and each layer of possibility in data driven decision making very well. I thought the flow of the elements worked well from levels, to tools and the roles - very good."

"I liked how it explained the possibilities of organisational automation in easy to understand terms and the case studies were excellent. I also like the breakdown of Agentic AI, yet another rabbit hole for me to fall down...."

Achievements:

- 14 individuals from 11 businesses provided non-financial support by way of programme participation, aiming to upskill in Artificial Intelligent tools and best practices
- Programme sparked the creation of a community for AI in the Borders, with first meet up taking place in late March

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S26 Business support measures to drive employment growth

PROJECT NAME: Advancing Business Innovation in the Scottish Borders

Organisation: Borders College

Start Date: 31/11/2023

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £95,431

SPF Award: £79,031

Match Funding: £16,400

Project Summary:

The funding supported 1 full time post for the duration of the project, to access and maintain the software required for training equipment, train staff, promote employer engagement events and drive forward the development of innovation in the region. The postholder worked as part of the Department of Enterprise and Business Innovation at Borders College to develop employer events showcasing the use of technology to improve productivity, develop new products and prototypes and manage business processes. Events took place in the Hawick campus although the mobile nature of the cobots meant that events were planned across the Borders to provide equality of access for all businesses in the region.

The project also worked closely with employers on short term innovations to support business development and economic growth and provided training and development to businesses on the use of technology to support business growth.

Achievements:

- 12 enterprises received non-financial support
- 13 increased number of enterprises supported
- 9 enterprises adopted new to the firm technologies or processes
- 5 enterprises adopted new or improved products or processes

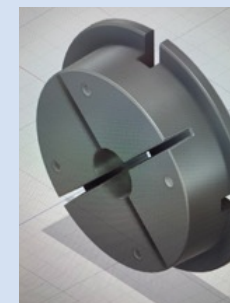
Quotes from beneficiaries:

"I am writing to firstly say a huge thank you for the opportunity given to me, via the AIMS project, and in particular to Richard Cook and Borders College for the time and effort given to me personally. The aim of the project was to set me on a journey, to be able to design my own jewellery via CAD. Using the Fusion package for design. As a 63 year old and having never used this type of computing before it was daunting to say the least. With Richard to guide me through the process, with homework and a lot of patience (from Richard) I feel I have the foundation to look ahead, and create new openings for my jewellery business"

"Our experience of this project was incredibly positive. Given this was carried out during a significant period of investment for the company, there was a notable sensitivity to change and Richard embraced the challenges and found solutions swiftly to support the overall project"

"We are delighted with the UCI tool that you printed, just had feedback from an event a couple of weeks ago, very successful".

"We were all impressed by what we seen, the information you were able to talk about AIMS & how we could work together and implement robotics into our company sounds very positive".



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S27 Support relevant feasibility studies

PROJECT NAME: Land Based Campus Development – Phase 1: Business Case

Organisation: Borders College

Start Date: 30/11/2023

Completion Date: 01/07/2024

Total Project Costs: £56,015

SPF Award: £49,134

Match Funding: £6,881

Project Summary:

The aim of the project was to produce a Phased 1 Business Case which included a scoping exercise to identify the full needs of a future Land-based campus including possible increased partnership working with Higher Education partners.

An external agency completed the full feasibility in July 2024 taking account of engagement with staff, students and the general public over current provision and future requirements.

As a result of the project, future actions are now being considered including methods to improve efficiency and ensure sustainable practice going forward, which will be further developed in the next phase which will be developed during Phase 2.



Achievements:

- 1 feasibility study produced as a result of support
- 102 people engaged in consultation
- Project has assisted in increasing business sustainability of College for future

Quotes from beneficiaries:

“Local and friendly, would be lost without the site” Newtown in Bloom Group;

“Like location as its central”, College part of the community” – Members of Public



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S11 Relevant Feasibility Studies

PROJECT NAME: Visitor Economy & Culture Delivery Programme

Organisation: Capital City Partnership

Start Date: 26/03/2024

Completion Date: March 2025

Total Project Costs: £184,666

SPF Award: £30,500

Match Funding: £154,166

Project Summary:

Individual local authority contacts have confirmed that they do not have data on local live arts audiences. The only reliable, large-scale source is The Audience Agency (TAA), a not-for-profit charity that holds an exclusive contract with Creative Scotland (CS) from 2019 until March 2025. TAA collects and analyses data from regularly funded CS organisations and other cultural groups that opt in. Consultation with the Head of Knowledge and Research at CS has confirmed that this is the only available source for the unique aggregated data and analysis required by the project. Through this project, the TAA has expanded their analysis to allow them to build a more detailed and robust picture of audience engagement across the region, incorporating drive time and market penetration to provide audience profiles for each of the local authority areas.

A Cycle Tourism Strategic Framework and Cruise Management Strategy has also been produced.

Achievements:

- 4 events/participatory programmes involving all LA areas have been delivered
- 4 feasibility studies have been produced
- 4 projects have been identified as a result of the feasibility

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"Genre or artform interests are an important element of the touring model. They help us to understand what may be relevant to local audiences and what may carry more risk. Consequently, TAA brought together the market size for each of the segments in the wider region (not City of Edinburgh) with the likelihood to attend the different artforms from survey data"
(Festivals Edinburgh)

Audience Spectrum Segment	City of Edinburgh		East Lothian		Fife		Midlothian		Scottish Borders		West Lothian	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Metroculturals	55,421	12%	15	0%	215	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5	0%
Commuterland Culturebuffs	76,500	17%	14,531	16%	26,368	8%	7,829	10%	12,064	12%	14,490	9%
Experience Seekers	168,437	37%	6,833	7%	20,947	6%	2,306	3%	1,872	2%	4,565	3%
Domitory Dependables	29,967	7%	17,649	19%	51,887	16%	15,046	19%	15,418	15%	32,211	21%
Trips & Treats	26,847	6%	20,219	22%	34,472	11%	18,812	24%	12,381	12%	21,332	14%
Home & Heritage	19,326	4%	8,494	9%	33,404	10%	6,519	8%	15,904	16%	6,123	4%
Up Our Street	14,011	3%	11,381	12%	54,198	17%	10,959	14%	11,636	12%	24,843	16%
Frontline Families	16,690	4%	7,139	8%	42,878	13%	10,481	13%	8,958	9%	28,891	19%
Kaleidoscope Creativity	41,096	9%	2,315	3%	34,376	11%	2,163	3%	9,375	9%	10,974	7%
Supported Communities	8,709	2%	3,830	4%	24,810	8%	4,907	6%	12,560	13%	12,471	8%
Unclassified	3,372	-	69	-	870	-	0	-	659	-	249	-
Adults 15+ estimate 2021	457,004		92,406		323,555		79,022		100,168		155,906	

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

Intervention: S27 Support relevant feasibility studies

PROJECT NAME: Eyemouth Harbour – Masterplan for "South East Scotland Gateway" [Our Masterplan](#) | [Eyemouth Harbour Trust](#)

Organisation: Eyemouth Harbour Trust

Start Date: 01/04/2024

Completion Date: 28/02/2025

Total Project Costs: £165,000

SPF Award: £130,000

Match Funding: £35,000

Project Summary:

This project was required to meet the need of a potential largescale harbour re-development project which had reached first round consideration by Scottish Government to address low port capacity in Scotland. This is a partnership project with Scottish Borders Council and South of Scotland Enterprise Agency. The production of a port masterplan follows the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) methodology, which has stakeholder consultation and participation as a central component. Stakeholder and community consultation showed strong backing for the masterplan.

The masterplan proposals, supported offshore renewables, fishing, and marine tourism, fitting with the 'Centre of Excellence for marine economy' and 'First port of call from land and sea' and 'Net Zero' eco-port from the communities adopted 'Vision 4 Eyemouth' as well as skills development in the area.

Locally, the potential port development will drive the transformational change required to deliver the Wellbeing Economy with green jobs and skills and circular supply chain development.

Since the development of the Masterplan, a further £1.8M funding has been secured through the Community Regeneration Partnership which will enable development of the Outline Business Case and technical feasibility investigations to be undertaken.



Achievements:

- Port Masterplan produced
- 8 events/participatory programmes were undertaken during its creation through stakeholder interviews, workshops and public events
- 5 projects were identified as part of the feasibility
- 11 community groups took part in consultation
- 3 local businesses also took part
- Engagement numbers increased from 40 to 174 individuals as a result of this project

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"... The new Eyemouth Harbour Masterplan will aim to identify all opportunities in the short, medium, and long term, which will benefit not just those involved in the Harbour, but also local communities and businesses and existing sectors such as fisheries, seafood processing and tourism. Working with partners, we look forward to supporting Eyemouth Harbour Trust on this hugely important Masterplan."

"This is a crucial once in many generations opportunity for Eyemouth. If we do this right it will set up Eyemouth for generations to come both economically and culturally. It could help change Eyemouth from a socially and economically problematic area to one full of skills, learning and economic opportunity."

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S31 Employment Support for Economically Inactive People

PROJECT NAME: Employment Support Worker – Family Firm

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Start Date: July 2023

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £50,956

SPF Award: £21,886

Match Funding: £29,070

Project Summary:

Our Borders Family Firm, support for care-experienced individuals has allowed us to support 19 individuals with Employability.

There have been 5 job outcomes for this group of individuals and 2 of the young people have been supported in participating in work-experience.

4 of the individuals have reported having disabilities.

Our support worker formed strong relationships with some of the Through-Care Team within Social Work and also with the local college, with plans afoot to support those accessing further education with their employability goals in the future.

Achievements:

- 19 people reported increased employability through development of interpersonal skills
- 19 people experienced reduced structural barriers into employment
- 19 people reported familiarisation with employers expectations including standards for behaviour at work

Quotes from beneficiaries:

“My Key-worker helped me to apply for college when my job didn’t work out which will hopefully help me to get a better job doing what I want in the future.”



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S31 Employment Support for Economically Inactive People

PROJECT NAME: Employment Support Worker – PROJECT SEARCH

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Start Date: July 2023

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £53,225

SPF Award: £18,502

Match Funding: £34,723

Project Summary:

Of the 17 Interns registered since 2023, 5 completed DFN Project SEARCH and 8 are on target to complete this year, 6 of whom are on their final rotation.

Staffing changes have had limited impact on DFN Project SEARCH due to the core service covering to ensure the programme was still running effectively with Interns having the level of support required to be successful.

There has been a real focus on job application and progression with the Job Coach supporting. The Job Coach will continue to support the Interns for a further year, after graduation from DFN Project SEARCH, as we feel this will enhance outcomes and provide the best level of support.



Achievements:

- 2 people are in employment or self employment following support
- 1 person has sustained employment for 6 months following support
- 13 people reported increased employability through development of interpersonal skills
- 13 people experienced reduce social barriers into employment
- 16 people felt familiarised with employers expectations
- 12 people gained qualifications, licences and skills

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"I wouldn't have started paid employment if I didn't do the programme".

I couldn't recommend it enough, everyone should have the chance to do Project SEARCH. I wish it lasted longer than the year".

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S31 Employment Support for Economically Inactive People

PROJECT NAME: Employment Training Delivery

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Start Date: July 2023

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £130,654

SPF Award: £63,450

Match Funding: £67,204



Project Summary:

SBC Training Team have delivered a significant amount of training since the funding was implemented in 2023. Of 100 people engaged only 12 withdrew due to ill health or moving outwith the area. 174 qualifications have been gained by individuals.

Everyone who undertook training has participated in job-searching as part of the course. The sustainment of 6 months employment does not account for all those who have entered employment due to when they entered employment as 38 individuals have entered paid employment in the funding period, with 13 participants entering further education.

Achievements:

- 90 people reported increased employability through development of interpersonal skills
- 90 people engaged in job searching following support
- 38 people are now in employment, including self-employment
- 10 people have sustained employment for 6 months
- 90 people reported experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment
- 100 reported familiarisation with employer's expectations including standard of behaviour

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"I liked having something to do as I have not had a routine in a long time. It's different to school as you get paid for it."

"The trainers and my NOLB Key-worker helped me to get a job. I would not have managed that without them and I am very grateful."

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S32 Courses including basic skills for those not economically active

PROJECT NAME: International Tartans

Organisation: ReTweed

Start Date: September 2023

Completion Date: March 2025

Total Project Costs: £153,798

SPF Award: £92,014

Match Funding: £61,784

Project Summary:

The funding was used to employ staff to deliver business plan objectives to create a profitable social enterprise initiative that generates 100% trading income within 3 years. It delivered advanced tailoring training to women and young people, giving them the skills to take-up fair work in heritage, craft and tailoring roles in the textiles industry across the South.

100% positive outcomes were achieved for the pilot delivered between Oct 22-May 23. The central mission was to improve life-chances for priority target groups to support them to learn new skills including core such as communication, decision-making, teamwork, numeracy, creativity and basic digital literacy alongside bespoke tailoring, product design and enterprise.

This work broke cycles of low aspiration and poverty, bringing some of the most vulnerable women and young people together in a supported environment to build confidence and personal resilience to determine longer-term aspirations; developing life and career goals.



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"My confidence has grown so much, I've got new skills"

"The courses are non-threatening, open, friendly and tutors are brilliant. It is about much more than the things we are making here, its' the support for all the work we do outside"

"If I look at the whole journey from ReTweed Level 1 to International Tartans Level 2...then probably the main thing is a sense of purpose"

Achievements:

- 4 jobs were created
- 12 volunteering roles were created for disadvantaged women
- 31 people reported increased employability through development of skills
- 18 people took up employment or self employment
- 32 people gained a qualification
- 29 people experience reduced structural barriers to employment

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S32 Courses including basic skills for those not economically active

PROJECT NAME: Employability – developing skills for employment

Organisation: Borders College

Start Date: November 2023

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £104,206

SPF Award: £95,130

Match Funding: £9,076



Achievements:

- 3 Employability Courses and 3 Train to Care courses developed in collaboration with employers and delivered
- 1 Train for Employability course delivered
- 58 economically inactive people engaged in job searching
- 52 people supported to gain a qualification
- 11 participants now in employment
- 3 participants in further training
- 1 participant volunteering

Project Summary:

This project delivered employability skills training and accreditation to economically inactive people. Working in partnership with the local Department of Work and Pensions and the local authority, we provided training which was accessible and met the needs of the local labour market as well as addressing the goals and aspirations of the client group. Engagement with local employers also helped to inform decision making and shape the courses we offered.

For this project specifically we engaged with the NHS and with Utility Warehouse to look at the accredited qualifications they would like potential employees to have and to ensure that participants were supported to access interviews at the end of the course. Many employers at present are finding recruitment challenging, we discussed the skills and knowledge they were looking for and supported course participants to develop these skills to ensure they were work ready

We also encouraged employers to participate in courses, meet students and offer interviews as part of the course.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"Overall, I enjoyed the course; getting First Aid training and other qualifications was very helpful. The highlight of the course has been the work placement. Seeing how a day in this profession played out was very illuminating"

"The course was great and a very nice experience. It was a great feeling when I learned how we should care – it was heart-touching."

"I found the course informative and enlightening. Being able to work on a placement with an environment I would apply to was my highlight."

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S33 Enrichment and Volunteering Activities

PROJECT NAME: The Place to be: 12 Towers, Adopt-a-Monument and Attainment through Archaeology

Organisation: Archaeology Scotland

Start Date: July 2024

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £95,604

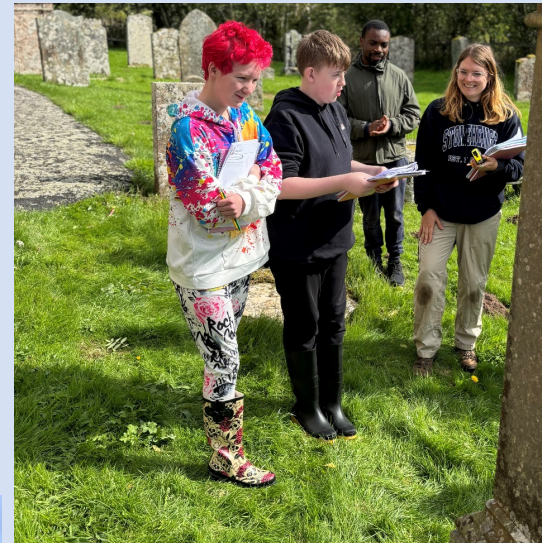
SPF Award: £83,604

Match Funding: £12,000

Project Summary:

Archaeology Scotland along with local community groups, schools, community organisations and individuals have been carrying out community led archaeological fieldwork in the Rule Water area of the Scottish Borders. The project revolved around providing first-hand experience of archaeology, opening horizons and learning some new skills in a new environment for a variety of people. The project focussed on the exploration, investigation, research and sharing of stories, narratives and histories of late medieval defended settlements in the valley. Sites at Fulton Tower, Bonchester Townhead, Bedrule Castle and to a lesser extent at Swanshiel fit into the development of defended settlements in the valley and are associated with the Border Reivers, rough wooing and other conflicts.

The project has sought to look at themes of conflict and settlement archaeologically and with benefit to the broader community. Activities included, archaeological surveying, geophysics, laser scanning, dry stone dyking and excavation.



Achievements:

- 164 people were supported to engage in life skills
- 127 school children engaged with learning through their heritage
- 13 activities were delivered including interpretation at Bedrule Castle
- 50 people gained a qualification
- Employability programme being developed as a result of the project

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"I always had an interest in history and archaeology so it was great to get hands on archaeology experience - also in such a beautiful location"

"The attention to detail and the ability of the professional archaeologists to be all inclusive, together with their passion to involve the volunteers in understanding the archaeological process was outstanding."

"Benefits of being outside in the countryside, learning new things and appreciating the environment."

"Learning and discovering (literally) new things and fitting them together to create a picture of life in the past."

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S34 Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills

PROJECT NAME: Scottish Borders E-Sports Skills Academy & League

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council (Inspire)

Start Date: September 2024

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £115,383

SPF Award: £66,325

Match Funding: £49,058

Project Summary:

This project developed skills learning via an alternative method (E-Sports) to young people, especially those hard to reach and who have difficulty engaging through normal educational methods. Participants gained skills in digital literacy, team working, strategic thinking, problem solving, communication, event organisation and graphic design.

It also included those unable to participate physically in team sports whether for physical, social or personal reasons to encourage inclusiveness through e-activity and promote social inclusion and shared learning. The project also highlighted alternative career paths in the sporting/events environment.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"When I first looked at the course I thought this was a strange course I wouldn't expected to be at school but then I thought wow, this is really exciting"

"Today has been incredibly exciting and I'm delighted that the first Borders Esports development event has taken place. This is an exciting journey, as we bring Esports into our communities and continue to create and develop new and exciting pathways for our young people"



Achievements:

- 1 tournament was supported
- 130 people were reached (36 teams supported)
- There were 9 active or sustained participants in community groups as a result of support
- There were 8 people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S37 Green Skills Courses

PROJECT NAME: Energy Efficient Supply Chain

[Home](#) | [Southern Uplands Partnership](#) or www.facebook.com/BordersConstructionForum/

Organisation: Southern Uplands Partnership

Start Date: 17/07/2023

Completion Date: 31/03/2025

Total Project Costs: £150,361

SPF Award: £134,249

Match Funding: £16,112

Project Summary:

This project used a range of approaches and raised awareness of the need to reduce carbon emissions and promoted the range of skills that are required to achieve the target of net-zero in the built environment sector. We worked (with others) to promote the wide range of opportunities for young people and the various pathways to work available to them. We sought to interest parents, teachers and children in the range of jobs that we will need. We were also keen to encourage upskilling of existing Scottish Borders contractors and more collaboration between them.

Finally, we actively engaged with the 'Able to Pay' market, encouraging homeowners to take more action. A key component was the establishment of and support for the Scottish Borders Construction Forum which brought all stakeholders together to discuss issues and to share experiences around the need to grow demand for retrofit and energy efficiency alongside the development of a suitably trained and qualified supply chain.

Achievements:

- Expanded the Scottish Borders Construction Forum to promote net zero which has met 7 times with over 120 participants and run 8 events with 147 participants.
- Offered subsidised training places for local businesses and supported 3 people to take up training opportunities
- Produced and published expert guidance on how micro businesses might work collaboratively to win and deliver local retrofit contracts at scale
- Worked with a local rural community (Oxton) on how they might implement a retrofit project addressing a particular house-archetype collaboratively. 12 householders took part
- This project also engaged with a number of other interested communities, engaging with 415 individuals in all.
- Worked with 20 local primary and 6 secondary schools to make teachers, parents and students more aware of the career opportunities offered by the drive to net zero.
- 1439 people attended at least 1 training event and we engaged with 577 organisations.



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"Gaining the heat pump certification will really help to future proof my business. Heating technology is constantly changing, and I am really pleased to have gained new knowledge and skills. I can now offer customers a wider range of products and services which will help boost my business"

"We are on a restricted budget and found that the information you provided on cost effective, practical, easy measures to draft proof and insulate our home were really useful. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help. This is a great initiative"

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S37 Green Skills Courses

PROJECT NAME: Retrofit & Green Skills

<https://www.borderscollege.ac.uk/news/businesses-scottish-borders-benefit-free-retrofit-skills-training>

Organisation: Borders College

Start Date: September 2023

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £500,882

SPF Award: £500,882

Match Funding: £0

Project Summary:

Borders College Green Skills programme was co-designed with local RSLs and the wider supply chain and provides upskilling and reskilling to employees and employers who play such an important role in decarbonising housing stock and delivering on Net Zero targets. It is a continuation of our very successful Community Renewal Fund Sustainability Academy delivered in 2021/22 with a view to building the skills for what will become a green economy. The project enables access to skills and training for local employers and businesses. The programme supports the needs of employers to plan for future skills and ensuring their employees are upskilled and reskilled, and ready to drive forward the race to Net Zero.

The Green Skills programme consisted of courses ranging from basic introduction courses, e.g. Introduction to Renewable Technology to fully certificated courses.

Achievements:

- 11 courses (6 awareness & introduction and 5 certified qualification courses) were developed through engagement with RSLs and other stakeholders
- 390 enrolments onto the courses,
- 231 information & awareness courses delivered students
- 159 students completed accredited courses, receiving BPEC, NOCN or City & Guilds qualifications
- 189 employees were provided upskilling and reskills from over 80 business based or working predominately in Scottish Borders, including RSLs and their contractors.
- 42 full time students undertook Introduction to Renewables course, the future workforce of the Borders.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"(the SPF training courses help our company) making better educated decisions on repairs and upgrades to our properties"

"(the SPF training courses help our company to) review old techniques and start to adopt sustainable ones & materials"

"Sustainability must be at the forefront for our constructions. This course helps our company review old techniques and start to adopt sustainable ones & materials."

"This course has helped me understand the process of fitting & maintenance; and allow my company to justify and explain the benefits to our customers with more concise accuracy."

"The courses helped me understand the basics of how each mainstream renewable energy source works and the pros/cons of each. ... enhanced understanding will help me in my decision-making of renewable energy developments."



INVESTMENT PRIORITY: PEOPLE & SKILLS

Intervention: S37 Green Skills Courses

PROJECT NAME: Community-Led Traditional Skills Training: Feasibility Study

<https://www.shbt.org.uk/our-projects/building-skills-eyemouth/>

Organisation: Scottish Historic Buildings Trust

Start Date: October 2024

Completion Date: February 2025

Total Project Costs: £40,815

SPF Award: £31,990

Match Funding: £8,825

Project Summary:

This project produced a feasibility study to address dereliction of historic buildings and lack of local traditional skills to repair and maintain these types of buildings. By designing a model for the restoration of historic buildings in rural towns this would assist in tackling the growing crisis in traditional skills.

Through desk-based research, targeted surveys, interviews with local tradespeople, and meetings with key stakeholders including Historic Environment Scotland, Borders College, and Eyemouth High School, we have designed a phased progressive training programme with a Pre-Apprenticeship offer followed by Modern Apprentice placements with local contractors. The curriculum is designed around the restoration of between 2-5 identified historic buildings, delivered by SHBT to the highest conservation standards.

The proposed model will deliver social and economic benefits in the form of newly created, geographically accessible pre-apprenticeship opportunities for young people, additional capacity for local building trades through supported Modern Apprenticeship roles, CPD opportunities for contractors in heritage skills and retrofit, and community benefit in restored town centre buildings. Subject to securing future funding, the project is ready to go to the next stage of development for delivery of an on-site pilot in Eyemouth in early 2026.

Achievements:

- 1 feasibility study produced entitled 'Community-Embedded Traditional Skills Training: A Building Preservation Trust Approach'.
- 133 local people were engaged (47 Eyemouth Community, 32 Local Tradespeople, and 21 Young People) and
- 33 people attended stakeholder workshops on-site in Eyemouth
- Pilot project designed to apply new delivery model identified on-site in Eyemouth as a next stage



Quotes from beneficiaries:

"I fully commend this project and would hope that those interested will be given an opportunity to gain recognised qualifications in their chosen trade."

"Think it's a great idea if it helps train people into employment and preserves historic buildings"

"This project will have a particularly positive impact on the community, the historic built environment and the construction industry as a whole."

"The Building Skills Eyemouth project represents an exciting opportunity for customers of all ages to engage with employability skills in their local community. Due to semi-rural location of East Berwickshire, any opportunity to provide training and experience as a means to create a locally based, skilled workforce, would clearly be of benefit to both individuals and the wider community."

INVESTMENT PRIORITY: MULTIPLY

Intervention: **S42** – Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers; **S43** – Course for parents wanting to increase numeracy skills; **S45** – Courses aimed at encouraging people to upskill to access jobs/careers; **S49** – Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage money

Scottish Borders Council <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/community-learning-development/multiply>

Start Date: September 2023

Completion Date: March 2025

Total Delivery Cost: £605,299

Project Summary:

Multiply, ran from September 2023 to the end of March 2025. This initiative was designed to enhance numeracy skills across various demographics. Various initiatives under the Multiply offered in the Scottish Borders were successful. In terms of qualifications and tuition, progress was made with learners achieving National 4 qualifications and making strides towards National 5 courses. Support for learners through one-on-one tuition and SQA qualifications was also achieved.

Grants were awarded to organisations promoting numeracy-focused projects within the community. Various programs, such as Rhythm and Numeracy courses for learners and support for parents with children's numeracy learning, have been successful and well engaged.

Other initiatives included a food growing program aimed at developing essential skills and a parental engagement program to support numeracy practices at home. Feedback from parents has led to the creation of a parental numeracy workbook to facilitate learning at home. Numeracy resource boxes were developed to provide essential tools for tutors and learners to enrich the learning process. These resources included materials such as concrete and pictorial aids, fraction tools, and necessary stationery.



Quotes from beneficiaries:

Numeracy and rhythm sessions:

'When I first started with the numeracy I wasn't that sure, but over the 4 weeks my numeracy has improved'

'You leave feeling more upbeat!'

'It's made me really think... I didn't feel frantic, not getting into a panic to work things out'

Achievements:

- 82 courses were designed to increase confidence with numbers
- 18 courses delivered for parents wanting to increase numeracy skills
- 37 courses were aimed at encouraging people to upskill to access jobs/careers
- 6 courses were designed to help people use numeracy to manage money
- 27 adults achieved maths qualifications up to and including Level 2 equivalent
- 14 adults participated in maths qualifications and courses up to and including Level 2 equivalent
- 799 people participated in Multiply funded courses



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