



**Please ask for:**

Erin Coltman

**Reference:**

CAT2526/01

**E-Mail:**

communityengagement@scotborders.gov.uk

**Date:**

13 April 2026

Dear 

## **ASSET TRANSFER UNDER THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015 DECISION NOTICE – APPROVED, SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS**

This Decision Notice relates to the Community Asset Transfer request made by The Arches Arts and Creative Hub SCIO (SC052947) (“the Community Transfer Body”) on 15 September 2025 in relation to The Wilton Centre (“The Arches”), 36 Princes Street, Hawick, TD9 7AY (UPRN HW009/01). The decision on this asset transfer request was made on 11 March 2026.

Scottish Borders Council has decided to agree to the request, subject to modifications.

Scottish Borders Council recognises the substantial supporting information submitted by the Community Transfer Body (CTB), the community support demonstrated through engagement activity and the statutory public notification period, and the strong alignment between the proposed use of the building and the Council’s priorities relating to regeneration, community empowerment, wellbeing and youth opportunity.

Scottish Borders Council also notes that elements of the CTB’s longer-term operating model are dependent on the outcome of an external decision by the Borderlands Partnership Board. To support early activation of the annexe building while proportionately managing associated risks, the Council considers it reasonable to approve the request with modifications, granting a one-year community lease at an annual rent of £250. The Council recognises that the outcome of the Business Case, which Council Officers continue to support the development of, may influence future plans, and would be willing to engage with the CTB at the conclusion of the one-year lease, and/or following approval of the Business Case, to explore the potential for a longer-term community lease. Any extension beyond the initial period would be subject to separate negotiation and approval through the Council’s usual governance arrangements, outwith the Asset Transfer process as described in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

This modification provides the CTB with operational access to the building, enables the delivery of early community benefit, and allows the Council to maintain appropriate stewardship of the asset while key decisions are awaited.

The attached Heads of Terms specify the terms and conditions subject to which Scottish Borders Council would be prepared to grant a lease of the building. These Heads of Terms are subject to the conclusion of formal legal missives and do not, in themselves, create any legally binding obligation. If you wish to proceed, you must submit an offer to us at the address below by 11 September 2026. The offer must reflect the terms and conditions attached and may include such other reasonable terms and conditions as are necessary or expedient to secure the lease within a

reasonable time. Full lease terms and conditions will be negotiated and finalised by the Council's Estates and Legal teams.

### **Right to Review**

You have a right to apply to the Council to review this decision. Any application for review must be made in writing to:

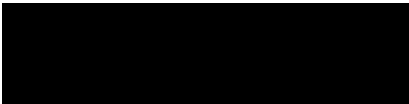
Communities and Partnerships Team  
Community Asset Transfer  
Council Headquarters  
Newtown St Boswells  
Melrose  
TD6 0SA

The application for review must be made by Monday 11 May 2026, which is 20 working days from the date of this notice.

Guidance on making an application for review is available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/asset-transfer-under-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-guidance-community-9781786527509/pages/18/>

Yours sincerely



**JOHN CURRY**  
**DIRECTOR – INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT**