

Updated Stage 1 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1: Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1: Details of the Proposal

A. Title of Proposal:	Feasibility Options Live Borders Facilities
B. What is it?	A new Project
C. Description of the proposal: (Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the proposal being developed or reviewed (what are the aims, objectives and intended outcomes, including the context within which it will operate))	Capital investment into Teviotdale Leisure Centre and an interim investment and change of use for the Indoor Bowling Centre at Tweedbank Sports Complex. This Stage 1 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) relates to early feasibility and option appraisal work and any potential impacts identified are indicative and subject to further assessment and consultation. Please note that following the conclusion of the Stages 2 & 3 IIA for the Tweedbank proposals, this Stage 1 IIA was updated in August 2026. This IIA now supersedes the one presented to Council on the 21/05/26, available under Item 5, Appendix 5 via the following link: https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s97934/Item%20No.%207%20-%20Live%20Borders%20-%20Appendix%205%20-%20SBC%20-%202021%20May%202026.pdf
D. Service Area: Department:	Resilient Communities Live Borders
E. Lead Officer:	Graeme McMurdo

(Name and job title)	Head of People, Projects and Risks
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	• Catriona McAllister – Chief Executive Officer, Live Borders • Jenni Craig – Director of Resilient Communities, Scottish Borders Council • Ross MacNay – Head of Finance, Live Borders • Suzy Douglas – Director of Finance and Procurement, Scottish Borders Council • John Curry – Director of Infrastructure and Environment, Scottish Borders • Scott Weir – Programming Manager, Live Borders
G. Date(s) IIA completed:	30/04/2026

Section 2: Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?

Yes

If yes, - please state here:

This proposal has a relationship with a number of national and local policies and strategies concerned with sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing. It aligns with the aims of the **Scottish Government's Active Scotland Outcomes Framework**, which sets the overarching ambition to increase physical activity and participation across the life course, reduce inequalities, and support improved physical and mental wellbeing.

It aligns with **Physical Activity for Health: Scotland's National Framework**, developed jointly by COSLA and partners, which recognises the role of accessible, high-quality leisure and physical activity infrastructure in supporting prevention, reducing health inequalities, and contributing to longer-term demand management within health and social care services.

Locally, the proposal supports the objectives of the Scottish Borders **Sports and Physical Activity Strategy**, which seeks to improve participation, encourage healthier lifestyles, and ensure that sport and physical activity provision continues to meet the needs of communities across the Scottish Borders. Investment in existing facilities, and consideration of changes in use, is intended to support the sustainability of provision and respond to changing patterns of demand.

At this early feasibility stage, these policy relationships help frame potential benefits and risks. Any impacts as a result of location, access or transport will be explored in more detail through Stage 2 of the Integrated Impact Assessment.

Section 3: Legislative Requirements

3.1: Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal?

(You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups).

In considering the impact of your proposal on people with equality characteristics, you should take into account the fact that the Equality Act 2010 covers:

- A. **Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment.** *(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)*
- B. **Promotion of equality of opportunity?** *(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)*
- C. **Fostering good relations?** *(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)*

Protected Characteristic	Please describe the potential impacts, and how any negative impacts could be mitigated. Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.
Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping	Investment into existing sports facilities will potentially impact across all age groups. The removal of indoor bowling (at Tweedbank) may impact on an older age group. This may be partially mitigated by: - indoor bowling remaining available in Hawick (the distance from Tweedbank to Hawick is 17.6 miles); - adults (over 60) being eligible for free bus travel - Indoor bowling is generally only played during Autumn/Winter months, therefore the impact is seasonal. The proposal to replace indoor bowling provision at Tweedbank with indoor gymnastics provision will have a positive health and participation impact with younger age groups. Relevant demographic information, including age profiles and membership data for Tweedbank indoor bowling users, will be incorporated at Stage 2 to inform the evidence base. However, it is expected that the proposals, in particular the development of gymnastics and soft play provision on the Tweedbank site, will have a positive impact on children and young people in the area, by enhancing the local play and sports provision.

	Updated in August 2026: Stage 2 engagement and evidence gathering highlighted potential impacts on people with protected characteristics, particularly older people and people with disabilities, due to the loss of indoor bowling at Tweedbank. Indoor bowling currently provides important opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, health management and wellbeing, and some individuals may face additional challenges in accessing alternative provision due to transport and accessibility barriers. While Hawick offers a realistic alternative for many users, travel may be more difficult for some members of Tweedbank Bowling Club and the Disability Bowling Club, particularly those living north, east or west of Tweedbank, although for individuals wishing to continue participating specifically in the sport of indoor bowls, alternative provision remains available at Hawick, Dalkeith and Meadowmill in East Lothian. For individuals participating through NHS-supported interventions, Parkinson's programmes or other wellbeing initiatives, alternative activities delivered by Live Borders and Sports Development services can provide similar physical, social and wellbeing benefits. To mitigate these impacts, Live Borders will work with affected individuals to identify suitable alternative opportunities where access to indoor bowls is no longer practical. The assessment found no evidence that people with protected characteristics would be disproportionately affected compared with those without protected characteristics, with impacts arising primarily from current usage patterns and the location of alternative facilities. In addition, the proposed gymnastics facility and inflatable fun area are expected to increase participation opportunities, particularly for children and young people, supporting physical activity, confidence and wellbeing for a wider range of users. The proposal also contributes to the long-term financial sustainability of Live Borders, helping to protect the delivery of leisure, sport, culture and community services that are used by many individuals and groups with protected characteristics across the Scottish Borders.
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Disability A physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities. This may be visible or invisible, progressive or recurring.	Transport and accessibility considerations, particularly for any disabled users accessing Tweedbank Bowling Centre requires fuller assessment at Stage 2 to understand any differential impacts and identify appropriate mitigations. Updated in August 2026: Following engagement through Stage 2, potential negative impact on a small subset of people with disabilities has been identified. However, the impact is expected to be mitigated through indoor bowling provision etc. (as stated above), as well as provision of activities other than bowling in the area. Also, general investment in sports and physical activities, as exemplified by the Tweedbank redevelopment, is expected to have a positive impact on people with disabilities by ensuring the sustainability of Live Borders provision. Without changes to provision, there is a substantial risk that sports/culture/physical activity services may not be sustainable in the long term which would be highly detrimental to people with disabilities who rely on them. Stage 2 engagement and evidence gathering highlighted potential impacts on people with protected characteristics, particularly older people and people with disabilities, due to the loss of indoor bowling at Tweedbank. Indoor bowling currently provides important opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, health management and wellbeing, and some individuals may face additional challenges in accessing alternative provision due to transport and accessibility barriers. While Hawick offers a realistic alternative for many users, travel may be more difficult for some members of Tweedbank Bowling Club and the Disability Bowling Club, particularly those living north, east or west of Tweedbank, although for individuals wishing to continue participating specifically in the sport of indoor bowls, alternative provision remains available at Hawick, Dalkeith and Meadowmill in East Lothian. For individuals participating through NHS-supported interventions, Parkinson's programmes or other wellbeing initiatives, alternative activities delivered by Live Borders and Sports Development services can provide similar physical, social and wellbeing benefits. To mitigate these impacts, Live Borders will work with affected individuals to identify suitable alternative opportunities where access to indoor bowls is no longer practical. The assessment found no evidence that people with protected characteristics would be disproportionately affected compared with those without protected characteristics, with impacts arising primarily from current usage patterns and the location of alternative facilities. In addition, the proposed gymnastics facility and inflatable fun area are expected to increase participation opportunities, particularly for children and young people, supporting physical activity, confidence and wellbeing for a wider range of users. The proposal also contributes to
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	the long-term financial sustainability of Live Borders, helping to protect the delivery of leisure, sport, culture and community services that are used by many individuals and groups with protected characteristics across the Scottish Borders.
Sex women and men (girls and boys)	No disadvantages are expected in relation to sex.
Gender Reassignment anybody who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing, or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.	No disadvantages are expected in relation to gender reassignment.
Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership	No disadvantages are expected in relation to marriage or civil partnership.
Pregnancy and Maternity (refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth).	No disadvantages are expected in relation to pregnancy or maternity.

Race: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)	No disadvantages are expected in relation to race.
Religion or Belief: different religious or philosophical beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief) e.g. Christianity, Islam, Hindu, pacifism, vegetarianism, gender critical.	No disadvantages are expected in relation to religion or belief.
Sexual Orientation, e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual	No disadvantages are expected in relation to sexual orientation.

3.2: Fairer Scotland Duty

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making strategic decisions.

The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.

Is the proposal strategic?

Yes

If No go to Section 4

If yes, please indicate any potential impact on the undernoted groups this proposal may have and how you know this:

	Please describe the potential impacts, and how any negative impacts could be mitigated. Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.
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Low and/or No Wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.	This is a strategic proposal relating to capital investment and potential changes in use of leisure facilities. The investment may improve access, quality and affordability of provision, including opportunities to consider concessionary arrangements for specific user groups. It is recognised, however, that changes in use or location may have differing impacts depending on geography, transport connectivity and socio-economic circumstances. Individuals experiencing low or no wealth, material deprivation or limited transport access may be disproportionately affected by changes to local provision. These potential impacts do not undermine the direction of travel at this stage but will be explored in more detail through Stage 2, alongside consideration of any necessary mitigations. Updated in August 2026: Following engagement through Stage 2, users of Tweedbank Bowling Hall who are experiencing low or no wealth, material deprivation, limited transport access, area deprivation or who are from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds may experience a negative impact when the bowling provision is removed from Tweedbank. However, this would be mitigated as indoor bowling is available at Teviotdale Leisure Centre and the facilitation of moving users to this facility where appropriate to do so will be explored, and also as alternative indoor bowling provision is available in Dalkeith and Meadowmill in East Lothian for users where travelling to Hawick may present a greater challenge. Also, by introducing gymnastics and soft play at Tweedbank, this will have a positive impact by having more offerings available for people to participate in.
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies	This is a strategic proposal relating to capital investment and potential changes in use of leisure facilities. The investment may improve access, quality and affordability of provision, including opportunities to consider concessionary arrangements for specific user groups. It is recognised, however, that changes in use or location may have differing impacts depending on geography, transport connectivity and socio-economic circumstances. Individuals experiencing low or no wealth, material deprivation or limited transport access may be disproportionately affected by changes to local provision. These potential impacts do not undermine the direction of travel at this stage but will be explored in more detail through Stage 2, alongside consideration of any necessary mitigations. Updated in August 2026: Following engagement through Stage 2, users of Tweedbank Bowling Hall who are experiencing low or no wealth, material deprivation, limited transport

	access, area deprivation or who are from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds may experience a negative impact when the bowling provision is removed from Tweedbank. However, this would be mitigated as indoor bowling is available at Teviotdale Leisure Centre, and the facilitation of moving users to this facility where appropriate to do so will be explored and also as alternative indoor bowling provision is available in Dalkeith and Meadowmill in East Lothian for users where travelling to Hawick may present a greater challenge. Also, by introducing gymnastics and soft play at Tweedbank, this will have a positive impact by having more offerings available for people to participate in.
Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport), see rural proofing guidance	This is a strategic proposal relating to capital investment and potential changes in use of leisure facilities. The investment may improve access, quality and affordability of provision, including opportunities to consider concessionary arrangements for specific user groups. It is recognised, however, that changes in use or location may have differing impacts depending on geography, transport connectivity and socio-economic circumstances. Individuals experiencing low or no wealth, material deprivation or limited transport access may be disproportionately affected by changes to local provision. These potential impacts do not undermine the direction of travel at this stage but will be explored in more detail through Stage 2, alongside consideration of any necessary mitigations. Updated in August 2026: Following engagement through Stage 2, users of Tweedbank Bowling Hall who are experiencing low or no wealth, material deprivation, limited transport access, area deprivation or who are from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds may experience a negative impact when the bowling provision is removed from Tweedbank. However, this would be mitigated as indoor bowling is available at Teviotdale Leisure Centre and the facilitation of moving users to this facility where appropriate to do so will be explored, and also as alternative indoor bowling provision is available in Dalkeith and Meadowmill in East Lothian for users where travelling to Hawick may present a greater challenge. Also, by introducing gymnastics and soft play at Tweedbank, this will have a positive impact by having more offerings available for people to participate in.
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income	Updated in August 2026: This is a strategic proposal relating to capital investment and potential changes in use of leisure facilities. The investment may improve access, quality and affordability of provision, including opportunities to consider concessionary arrangements for specific user groups. It is recognised, however, that changes in use or location may have differing impacts depending on geography, transport connectivity and

	socio-economic circumstances. Individuals experiencing low or no wealth, material deprivation or limited transport access, or who are from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds may be disproportionately affected by changes to local provision. These potential impacts do not undermine the direction of travel at this stage but will be explored in more detail through Stage 2, alongside consideration of any necessary mitigations. Following engagement through Stage 2, users of Tweedbank Bowling Hall who are experiencing low or no wealth, material deprivation, limited transport access, area deprivation or who are from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds may experience a negative impact when the bowling provision is removed from Tweedbank. However, this would be mitigated as indoor bowling is available at Teviotdale Leisure Centre and the facilitation of moving users to this facility where appropriate to do so will be explored, and also as alternative indoor bowling provision is available in Dalkeith and Meadowmill in East Lothian for users where travelling to Hawick may present a greater challenge. Also, by introducing gymnastics and soft play at Tweedbank, this will have a positive impact by having more offerings available for people to participate in.
Care experienced people	No expected advantages / disadvantages.
Carers paid and unpaid including family members	No expected advantages / disadvantages.
Homelessness	No expected advantages / disadvantages.
Addictions and substance use	No expected advantages / disadvantages.
Those involved within the criminal justice system	No expected advantages / disadvantages.

3.3: Consumer Duty

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to have regard to the matters listed below.

This applies to strategic matters so only complete this section if you have marked “Yes” in Section 3.3.

How will the proposal impact on users or potential users of the service? E.g. Will the proposal affect the way in which people can access services, will it improve the range of choice accessible to service users, will it improve or hinder access to information for service users?	Significant capital investment into existing facilities may provide more scope for access. The alternative to capital investment into existing facilities may be to manage decline, followed by facility closure. Investment helps to maintain and improve current provision.
If there are any negative impacts, do you intend to mitigate these and, if so, how?	This reflects the early feasibility nature of the proposal, with detailed impacts on service users, choice and access to be assessed as proposals mature through Stage 2. Updated in August 2026: Following engagement through Stage 2, users of Tweedbank Bowling Hall may experience a negative impact when the bowling provision is removed from Tweedbank. However, this would be mitigated as indoor bowling is available at Teviotdale Leisure Centre and the facilitation of moving users to this facility where appropriate to do so will be explored, and also as alternative indoor bowling provision is available in Dalkeith and Meadowmill in East Lothian for users where travelling to Hawick may present a greater challenge. Also, by introducing gymnastics and soft play at Tweedbank, this will have a positive impact by having more offerings available for people to participate in.

3.4: Armed Forces Covenant Duty (*Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only*)

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard to) the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters.

This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.

Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable?

No

If “Yes”, please complete below

Covenant Duty	How is the proposal impacted by the following principles?	If there are any negative impacts, do you intend to mitigate these and, if so, how? Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.
The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces; For example: • Danger • Geographical Mobility • Separation from Family • Service Law • Unfamiliarity with Civilian Life • Hours of Work • Stress		
The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;		
The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.		

3.5: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Scottish Borders Council (SBC) has a statutory duty not to act, or fail to act, in a manner incompatible with the requirements of the UNCRC. (For these purposes a child is a person under the age of 18).

This only applies to certain matters, where SBC is acting under:

- An Act of the Scottish Parliament.
- Regulations made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament.
- A general (common law) legal duty.

Is the UNCRC Duty applicable?

Updated in August 2026: Yes

If “Yes”, please complete below:

Does the proposal impact the following rights? (Tick all that apply)

Non-discrimination (Article 2)	✓
Best interests of the child as a primary consideration (Article 3)	
Right to life, survival and development (Article 6)	
Right to be heard (Article 12)	✓
Other (for a full list of rights, please see here)	Article 31
None	

If you have ticked yes for any of the Articles, please specify whether it is positive, negative or neutral, the nature of the impact, as well as any mitigations put in place if the effect is negative. Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.

Effect	Pos/ Neg/ Neutral	Mitigation
Article 2: It's not likely to have an effect as we do not expect a discrimination against children and younger people. Most of the current users of the bowling facilities are not children and younger people. There are a small number of children and young people who may use the Tweedbank	Neutral	Mitigations include consultation and engagement with users and offering alternatives to bowling and facilitating moving users to the Teviotdale Leisure Centre bowling facility where appropriate to do so.

	facility through the clubs and groups who currently use it, and who may be negatively impacted by the change. On the other hand, the development of a gymnastics and soft play facility will positively impact children and young people who use the facility. Therefore, we do not anticipate any discrimination.		
	Article 12: The proposal impacts children and young people. We have not engaged with children and young people directly given the small number of users who are impacted by the proposal, however; we have engaged with the clubs and groups who currently use Tweedbank, which may include a small number of young users, and their feedback has informed mitigating actions.	Neutral	Mitigations include consultation and engagement with the clubs and groups who currently use Tweedbank and offering alternatives to bowling and facilitating moving users to the Teviotdale Leisure Centre bowling facility where appropriate to do so.
	Article 31: We are developing a gymnastics and soft play facility on the premises at	Positive	Mitigations include consultation and engagement with users and offering alternatives

	Tweedbank Sports Complex. We expect this to enhance the local play offer for children and young people. A small number of children and young people may be negatively impacted, but this has been mitigated.		to bowling and facilitating moving users to the Teviotdale Leisure Centre bowling facility where appropriate to do so.

Section 4: Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.5.

Yes

If yes, please proceed to Stage 2 and complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment

If a full impact assessment is not required briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

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Signed by Lead Officer:	Graeme McMurdo
Designation:	Head of People, Projects & Risk (Live Borders)
Date:	30/04/2026

Updated IIA Approved by Jenni Craig, Director of Resilient Communities, on 24/08/26