

Stage 2: Evidence Gathering and Consultation

A: Case ID (This should match your Stage 1 ID (Enter a unique placeholder if not known yet i.e an internal reference or your department followed by a number with no special characters))	144
B. Title of Proposal:	SBC & Live Borders Progress Update - Tweedbank
C. Service Area: Department:	Resilient Communities
D. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Jenni Craig Director of Resilient Communities
E. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	• Catriona McAllister – Chief Executive Officer, Live Borders • Graeme McMurdo – Head of Projects, People and Risk • Jenni Craig – Director of Resilient Communities • 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 Council • Graeme Murdoch – Active Communities Manager, Scottish Borders Council
F. Date(s) IIA completed:	14/08/2026

Section 1: Data and Information

A. What evidence has been used to inform this proposal?

(Information can include, for example, surveys, databases, focus groups, in-depth interviews, pilot projects, reviews of complaints made, user feedback, academic publications and consultants' reports).

Background and Proposal Need

Live Borders continues to operate within a challenging financial environment, characterised by a well-documented and persistent funding gap between income and the actual cost of delivering services. As with many publicly funded leisure and cultural trusts, rising operational costs, constrained public-sector budgets, and evolving user expectations have placed sustained pressure on financial sustainability. Within this context, facilities must increasingly demonstrate their ability to generate income, maximise utilisation, and contribute to broader strategic outcomes. The current performance of Tweedbank Bowling Centre, while valued locally, operates at a loss, and the number of bowling members has steadily declined over the years. As such, redevelopment presents a necessary and proactive response to address financial pressures, the need for a more resilient operating model and a facility that can attract increased footfall and usage.

On 21 May 2026, Council approved a revised Live Borders investment approach which prioritised Teviotdale Leisure Centre and along with smaller scale capital investment at Tweedbank Sports Complex & Bowling Hall. The Council report and supporting Business Case provides the main strategic and financial evidence for this proposal. This evidence sets out the Live Borders financial position, the need for the Council to modernise an ageing estate, the requirement to improve sustainability and service performance, and the case for prioritising investment where community impact, participation growth and revenue return can be maximised.

For Tweedbank specifically, the evidence includes the options appraisal and revenue modelling developed through the feasibility and Business Case process. This work considered how the existing building is currently used, the limited and seasonal nature of indoor bowling activity, the condition and constraints of the facility, and the comparative potential of alternative uses. The May 2026 Council report identifies the Tweedbank investment as a targeted investment intended to support gymnastics, inflatables, youth fitness, children's activities and wider family-focused use, with the aim of generating significantly higher footfall, broader participation and improved financial performance compared with the current indoor bowling offer.

The Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) feasibility study has also been used to inform the proposal. This provides more detailed background on the Tweedbank site, including the current building condition, the limited year-round use of indoor bowling, wider outdoor infrastructure issues, and the redevelopment options considered. The study identifies a strong participation and revenue case for repurposing the indoor space for gymnastics and for health & fitness activity rather than retaining the current indoor bowls set up. It highlights potential demand for permanent gymnastics offer, notes the opportunity to provide a clearer pathway from recreational to development and competition gymnastics, and indicates that a gymnastics-based option could support substantially increased usage of the site. This evidence helps demonstrate why gymnastics and other youth and family activities are being considered as a more sustainable and higher-impact use of the space.

Relevant wider strategic evidence has also been taken into account. This includes the wider Live Borders Business Transformation Programme and earlier Council reports on the sport, leisure and cultural estate, which identify that the current delivery model is financially unsustainable, that parts of the estate are ageing and increasingly costly to maintain, and that future provision requires a smaller, improved and more sustainable estate. The proposal is also informed by the Scottish Borders Council Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, particularly the priority on active places and spaces and the objective of working with Live Borders to deliver sustainable and accessible services. This strengthens the case for investment in facilities and activities that can widen participation, support children and young people to be active, improve inclusion, and make better long-term use of existing assets.

Consultation and Involvement Findings

In developing the proposal, account has also been taken of consultation and engagement undertaken through the transformation programme, including stakeholder and community feedback on future service delivery, access to facilities, local need, and the potential impact of service changes on users and communities. Earlier Council reports note that this wider engagement helped shape the overall approach to future service and estate planning.

Officer input from Live Borders and Scottish Borders Council has also informed the proposal, alongside operational knowledge of current usage, service demand, links with other facilities, and understanding of how Tweedbank contributes to the wider Borders leisure offer. This includes consideration of the role of Teviotdale Leisure Centre in retaining a venue for indoor bowling provision within the Borders, while allowing Tweedbank to be reshaped towards activities with stronger youth, family and participation outcomes.

The evidence base therefore includes: the 21 May 2026 Council report and supporting appendices and presentation; the KKP feasibility study and associated options appraisal work; financial and service sustainability information supplied by Live Borders and Scottish Borders Council officers; earlier Council reports linked to the Transformational Programme and estate review; the Scottish Borders Council Sport and Physical Activity Strategy; and consultation and engagement findings gathered through the wider transformation programme.

The evidence base also includes the Integratis report presented to Council in April 2025, which was noted as an initial basis for engagement and the development of future options, together with the subsequent Borders Sporting, Leisure and Culture Estate Review Council Report in November 2025, which further developed that position. In relation to Tweedbank Sports Complex & Bowling Hall, these reports recommended that the site should be retained and progressed through feasibility and Business Case work to consider how the bowling hall and wider centre could be repurposed or remodelled to improve usage, participation, income generation and long-term sustainability, rather than maintaining the existing offer unchanged. The Integratis report identified that elements of the sporting estate were under-utilised and contributed to wider financial and operational inefficiencies. This included advising that the indoor bowling facility at Tweedbank Sports Complex is significantly

under-utilised, and that users could alternatively access indoor bowling provision at Teviotdale Leisure Centre. It supported the rationalisation of such provision, including the potential repurposing spaces currently used for lower-demand activities. More broadly, the report recommended consolidating facilities and activities into a smaller number of more sustainable, higher-performing sites, strengthening key leisure centres as multi-purpose hubs.

B. Describe any gaps in the available evidence, then record this within the improvement plan together with all of the actions you are taking in relation to this (e.g. new research, further analysis, and when this is planned).

There is sufficient evidence to explain the strategic, financial and service reasons for considering the proposal. However, there are still some gaps in the available evidence that require to be addressed through the next stage of consultation and impact assessment. Further evidence is needed on the impact of removing indoor bowling at Tweedbank, particularly for current users and any disproportionate effects on older people, disabled people and any other protected groups, including whether alternative provision is realistic and accessible and what mitigation may be required. This information will be gathered through the IIA process, including targeted consultation, review of available user data, equality impact analysis, and mitigation and transition planning.

C. UNCRC Engaged in IIA Stage 1? (This arises where a proposal is covered by an Act of the Scottish Parliament. Regulations made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament or a common law duty and you have identified there is or may be an impact on children.)

- ☐ No, move onto Section 2.
- ☒ Yes, please complete below question.

If yes, has this flagged any concerns or gaps in evidence which require to be addressed?

Tweedbank Bowling Club have no members under the age of 18.

There are 20 adults who are part of the Disability Bowling Club who use the facility for 13 weeks each year. Consideration was given to potential impacts on young members of the Disability Bowling Club; however, it has since been confirmed that the club has no members under the age of 18. The assessment has nonetheless recognised that children and young people may use affected facilities and services. As noted in stage 1, appropriate mitigations are in place through the provision of alternate venues and/or other activities locally.

On this basis, no further UNCRC gaps or concerns have been identified.

Section 2: Consultation and Involvement

A. Which groups are involved in this process and describe their involvement.

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| 1. Disability Bowling Group – Attend the bowling centre annually Nov-Dec for a 7-week block and then Feb-March for a 6-week block of bowling. There are 20 adults with additional needs in the group, but not all attend every week. |
| 2. Parkinson's Group – around six people attend on a Thursday as a spin-off from Live Borders Health Referral Class on a Tuesday. Participants are all in 50+ category. They play bowls for an hour and then have a cup of tea. |
| 3. Tweedbank Indoor Bowling Club – main user of the facility for the 5-6 months of the more inclement months of the year. Used regularly across the week during winter. Circa 80 members. |
| 4. Teviotdale Indoor Bowling Club – do not use the facility but will be a significant mitigation for displaced users who can join this Bowling Club, which is located 17.6 miles from the Tweedbank facility. |
| 5. NHS Group – Come from East and West Briggs rehabilitation facility for 1 hour of bowling per week – circa 4x participants. |

B. Describe any planned involvement saying when this will take place and who is responsible for managing the process.

Meetings have been arranged by Live Borders and SBC Officers. The CEO of Live Borders and SBC Active Communities Manager are arranging and attending the meetings.
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C. Describe the results of any involvement and how you have taken this into account.

The involvement undertaken has confirmed that the proposed loss of indoor bowling at Tweedbank will have an impact on a number of existing users, particularly older adults, disabled participants, people using the facility as part of health or rehabilitation activity, and members of Tweedbank Indoor Bowling Club. The main issues raised were the value of indoor bowling for physical activity, social connection, confidence, wellbeing and reducing isolation; concerns about travel distance and public transport to alternative provision at Teviotdale/Hawick; potential disruption for disabled users and health-related groups; and concern that some users may not continue participating if the Tweedbank facility is no longer available.

The involvement has been taken into account by identifying the need for practical transition support and mitigation. Teviotdale Indoor Bowling Club has confirmed that it could accommodate displaced bowlers, including the Disability Bowling Group, subject to suitable days and times
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being agreed. Officers have also identified that some users may need support to access alternative bowling opportunities, while others may benefit more from alternative physical activity, health and wellbeing programmes closer to Galashiels or their local area. Live Borders, Sports Development and relevant partner officers will therefore continue to work with affected groups and individuals to explore suitable alternatives, including indoor bowling at Teviotdale where appropriate, other programmed activities, social prescribing, and health intervention pathways.

The involvement has strengthened the assessment by providing more detailed evidence of the potential impacts on age, disability, health and wellbeing, transport access and social participation. It has also confirmed that, while adverse impacts will arise for some current users, suitable mitigation measures have been identified and can be implemented in most cases and will be developed through ongoing engagement with clubs, user groups, NHS partners and Live Borders programme leads. While a small number of residual impacts may remain, particularly for some existing indoor bowling users, these have been considered proportionate when balanced against the significant benefits of the proposal and the wider risks to the long-term sustainability of services and facilities should no action be taken.

D. Describe any events held and views obtained (if applicable).

Event 1: Meeting with Teviotdale Bowling Club Committee

Date:	Number of People in Attendance:	Venue:	Protected Characteristics Represented:
15/06/26	4 – Teviotdale Bowling Committee and LB and SBC Officers	Teviotdale Leisure Centre	All

Views Expressed:	Officer Responses:
View Expressed: Teviotdale Bowling Club would be able to accommodate the disability bowling club. Several daytime slots would be available for this.	Officer Response: This would be useful, and as the group already travel from many locations, a change of location may be feasible. Communicated that roughly 20 members, but not all, are in attendance at each session and it runs for around 13 weeks per year.
View Expressed: The issue of the ramp to green was discussed.	Officer Response: The officer said they were already aware of this and were working with D to explore options for installing a ramp. D had provided images from other UK rinks where he found the ramp was practical and useful.

View Expressed: Teviotdale could accommodate displaced members of Tweedbank in their competition and practice sessions. This could be done by introducing bye weeks or additional evenings, such as Tuesday and Thursday.	Officer Response: The officer asked the committee if they needed support to cope with higher league entries. They said league planning software would help GM said the Club Dev. Officer would look at this with them.
View Expressed: Tweedbank could use Tue and Thur evenings and maybe some weekends to have their own leagues if they did not want to fully integrate.	Officer Response: Officers said this may be attractive and was a point to discuss with Tweedbank.
View Expressed: A senior day time league could be started that would give more competitive options for older adults. This may also move older Teviotdale members to the daytime and free up places in the evening league.	Officer Response: Club asked to explore this as an option.
View Expressed: The club is ready to welcome any members who wish to continue bowling and can no longer do so at Tweedbank. Considering offering reduced-fee membership for those wishing to move during their first year.	Officer Response: Officers suggested the club start to prepare for this and consider an open event and promotion for new members that makes Tweedbank members feel welcome.
View Expressed: The Tweedbank Borders League could continue on a Saturday and Sunday if Tweedbank wished to continue running it.	Officer Response: This might be a good option for club members to continue receiving their comps and take a partial step toward full measure.

Event 2: Meeting with Lead Officer Disability Bowling Group

Date: 22/06/26	Number of People in Attendance: 1 - Live Borders (x2); SBC Officers (x2)	Venue: Council HQ	Protected Characteristics Represented: Disability adult group - bowling
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Views Expressed:	Officer Response:
View Expressed: Displacement of the disability bowling group from Tweedbank to Teviotdale may cause disruption.	Officer Response: Moving to an alternative venue will be a change for users. Disabled users already travel from all over the Borders to attend indoor bowling at Tweedbank (e.g.) from Peebles, Duns, Hawick. For some users the change of venue to Hawick may result in shorter travel for others, it may result in longer travel times/distance. The group comprises of 15-20

	individuals. Peebles to Tweedbank Indoor Bowling is (22.7 miles / 40min); travel from Peebles to Hawick Indoor Bowling is (32 miles / 1hr). Tweedbank Indoor Bowling Hall is currently used by the disability sports group circa once per week for 13 weeks per year. Mainly over the winter period (when outdoor bowling is not available). Teviotdale Bowling has indicated that this could be accommodated in Hawick (depending on times/days). The group generally uses 3x rinks at the indoor bowling centre at Tweedbank when playing. Teviotdale Bowling has 5 rinks and has indicated that accommodating 3 rinks is possible (again depending on times/days).
View Expressed: Cornerstone adult learning disability service are members of the group who attend indoor bowling at Tweedbank. They are based in Galashiels. Approx 4x users.	Officer Response: Cornerstone users travelling from Gala to Hawick would increase travel time. As mitigation, there is potential for Live Borders to programme capacity for other activities to take place in the Galashiels area. This would not be indoor bowling, but after the Galashiels Campus synthetic pitches are completed (due to complete by October 2026), this could deliver opportunities for Cornerstone individuals (and others) to be programmed into the 2-hall space at Gala Campus (i.e.) appropriate, alternative programmed activities. In addition, when the covered tennis/padel facility is constructed at Galashiels Campus, it could also offer opportunities for programmed activity. For these individuals, bowling is an activity, not a sport, they are pursuing. Therefore, a mitigation is to ensure they have an alternative activity to attend regularly.
View Expressed: Activity programming for disabled groups/users.	Officer Response: Live Borders Head of Leisure, Area and Operations managers will meet with SBC Disability Officer to discuss potential options to increase activity programming for disabled groups. LB Head of Leisure due to commence in post August 2026.

Event 3: Meeting with Tweedbank Bowling Club Committee and Members

Date:	Number of People in Attendance:	Venue:	Protected Characteristics Represented:
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13/07/2026	Around 30-40	Tweedbank Bowling Club	Mainly older adults and those with disabilities, but all discussed
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Characteristic	Views Expressed:	Officer Response:
Characteristic: Age	Views Expressed: “The membership is varied in its make up but we have a significant proportion of older bowlers. The idea that Hawick is a viable option is just wrong”. “The geography of the Borders means that unless you live in Galashiels, public transport is not a realistic way to get to Hawick. Buses are sporadic and don’t service enough of the area at times that suit the evening times of bowling”. “For a number of older members, this club is their social life, their physical wellbeing and their ticket to avoiding social isolation that can have such a damaging effect on people’s mental health” “This proposal disadvantages the elderly at the benefit of Children and Young People”. “There is a uniqueness to bowling that doesn’t exist in other sports. Where can you see 4 generations of the same family playing in the same venue”. “We have some junior members and younger players who will struggle to play in Hawick. We also have a number of bowlers who qualify to play at national and regional level. There is a fear that they go back to square one if they have to play out of Hawick as they’ll lose the opportunity to qualify to play in these tournaments”.	Officers Responses: President of Tweedbank Bowling Club has been asked to provide the detail on the actual number of bowlers with a disability so that this can be recorded. The point around transport is a valid one. The Borders transport infrastructure is poor unless you are travelling along the main A7 and A72 corridors. It is not the case that we are putting children and young people before older adults but we need to recognise the revenue potential of children and young people activities like gymnastics and soft play which hasn’t been maximised enough over the last few years. The financial backdrop that we face means that we must significantly increase revenue streams. Children’s activities like gymnastics, swimming and athletics are widely recognised as fundamental activities

		for developing the basic agility, balance, and coordination required in all sports and if we have greater numbers of physically literate children and young people, we will then have a stronger sporting pathway in all sports longer term. We acknowledge that all sport has so many benefits for all ages in terms of improved physical and mental wellbeing. Unfortunately in this situation, your group is being affected by a business decision that supports future financial sustainability for the organisation.
Characteristic: Sex	Views Expressed: “Our bowling club is approximately a 60/40 split of male/females. Statistics would suggest that if an opportunity that females take part in is removed, 80% of those females won't seek out new opportunities”. Assessment of membership shows 20 female and 60 male bowlers (A 75/25 split).	Officers Responses: Agree that female longer term participation in sport is an issue across all sports. It is something that we constantly look to address in the Borders, where we are fortunate to have proportionally higher female participation than other areas of Scotland. What we are keen to do is to work with the bowling club to look at how we can support the possible transition over to Hawick to bowl from that facility with minimal disruption and without losing people from the sport.

Characteristic: Disability	Views Expressed: “We have some members with disabilities (partial sight) who will be affected and the idea of travelling to Teviotdale will be problematic”. Update from membership analysis (DONE).	Officers Responses: President of Tweedbank Bowling Club has been asked to provide the detail on the actual number of bowlers with a disability so that this can be recorded. This has subsequently been confirmed as 11 adults with a declared disability (14% of the membership). Live Borders have also spoken with the Disability Development Officer about the disability group of bowlers who access the venue. These bowlers are from across the Borders and so relocating them to Hawick will be advantageous for some but acknowledge that it will be a disadvantage to others from areas such as Peebles, Gala and Berwickshire. Teviotdale Indoor Bowling club have identified times and space for the disability specific group to access the venue in Hawick.
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Event 4: Call with Lead Officer - NHS Group – East and West Briggs rehabilitation facility for 1 hour of bowling per week

Date:	Number of People in Attendance:	Venue:	Protected Characteristics Represented:
17/07/26	2 – Lead Officer and LB CEO	Call	Mental Health Disability

Views Expressed:	Officer Response:
View Expressed: Rehab ward for people with long-term mental health conditions. Clients are usually over 40 but currently a couple in their 20's. Clients are mainly men but can be females at times. IN is an activity co-ordinator and works with an exercise specialist who takes clients to the gym. Bowling works well, as it's competitive and fun, and it's a lower-level activity, which some clients find hard. Some have then learned a sport they can take up when they are discharged, which helps their recovery and social interaction. 2/3 activities weekly, of which Bowling is one of these. IN would be happy as a mitigation to take clients to other activities such as padel tennis and swimming. He also said that taking clients to play bowls in Hawick is possible, though it requires more time. Mitigations in Gala are best, and he is happy to work with Live Borders to understand the alternatives.	Officer Response: Live Borders will arrange for their Health Intervention Officer to meet with IN to discuss alternative options. The LB social prescribing programme may be a very good option for their clients being discharged to continue with supported physical activity. Live Borders will work with Lead Officer and the facility on an activity pathway from addition to home.

Event 5: Lead Officer – Activity Officer on a Mental Health Ward

Date:	Number of People in Attendance:	Venue:	Protected Characteristics Represented:
	2 – Activity Officer and LB CEO	Call	Mental Health Disability

Views Expressed:	Officer Response:
View Expressed: DA works as an Activity Officer on a Mental Health Ward. They work with both longer-term patients and short-term clients. They use Tweedbank bowling on an ad hoc basis when they have a group of patients on the ward at the same time who would benefit. The participants are adults of varying ages.	Officer Response: Live Borders will work with them to look at suitable alternatives. Our Health Intervention Officer will contact DA to discuss options and also social prescribing for clients able to return home. There are several alternative activities that could be offered for this type of ad hoc introduction to physical activity.

Bowling is a good, easy sport to get them active, but happy to discuss alternative options. They are not regular users. Small groups.	
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Event 6: Parkinson's Bowling Group

Date:	Number of People in Attendance:	Venue:	Protected Characteristics Represented:
21/07/26	6	Call	Disability – Older Adults

Views Expressed:	Officer Response:
View Expressed: Very sad to see the Bowling come to an end; it has been very valuable. Disappointed at the activity ending – found it worked perfectly as an activity to suit their needs.	Officer Response: Officer agreed that the group has benefited from bowling regularly and discussed alternative activities they can support them in undertaking that will provide similar benefits.
View Expressed: Distance to travel to Hawick indoor bowling club is too far. Some participants are relying on public transport.	Officer Response: The officer notes this comment and concluded that, given this, looking at alternative activities with similar benefits would be a better mitigation than travel to play Bowls in Hawick.
View Expressed: Would like us to explore alternative activities in a similar vein. The group enjoyed the self-supported nature of the session and would like that to continue.	Officer Response: Officer will scope out alternative venues and activities and share with the group and support ongoing engagement.
View Expressed: Disappointed at the lack of consultation ahead of the decision but appreciate this meeting and the offer to explore other options.	Officer Response: Officer noted this comment

3: Summary and Next Steps

Section 1: Summary

Summarise what you have learned then develop this further.

(Describe the conclusion(s) you have reached from the evidence, and state where the information can be found.)

Please consider the following:

- **What have you learned from the evidence you have and the involvement undertaken?**
- **Does the initial assessment remain valid?**
- **What new (if any) impacts have become evident?**
- **Is the proposal not to proceed because of a disproportionate impact on equality or Fairer Scotland characteristics?**

The assessment has identified that the proposed change of use and the resulting loss of indoor bowling at Tweedbank will affect some individuals and groups with protected characteristics, most notably older people and people with disabilities. Age-related impacts are linked to the current profile of indoor bowling participants and the important role the activity plays in supporting physical activity, social interaction and wellbeing.

Transport and accessibility considerations may also present challenges for some users with protected characteristics who would need to travel to alternative indoor bowling facilities, particularly those who are less able to travel independently or who rely on public or community transport. People with disabilities may experience impacts where indoor bowling forms an important part of their physical activity, social engagement, health management or wellbeing.

Alternative indoor bowling provision at Hawick is considered a realistic and accessible option for many affected users. However, for some members of Tweedbank Bowling Club and the Disability Bowling Club, particularly those living north, east or west of Tweedbank, travel to Hawick may present a greater challenge. 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 participants attending bowling as part of NHS-supported interventions, Parkinson's programmes, or wider health and wellbeing activities, the primary benefits are generally related to physical activity, mobility, social connection, confidence and wellbeing rather than the sport of bowls itself. In these cases, comparable outcomes can be achieved through alternative activities and programmes delivered through Live Borders and Sports Development services. Where travel or accessibility barriers prevent continued participation in indoor bowls, Live Borders will work with individuals to identify suitable alternative opportunities that support ongoing physical activity, social participation and wellbeing. While impacts have been identified, the assessment has found no evidence that people with protected characteristics will be materially or disproportionately affected compared with those without protected characteristics. The impacts are primarily related to current patterns of facility use and the location of alternative provision, rather than arising directly from protected characteristics themselves.

While the assessment has identified some impacts arising from the loss of indoor bowling, it is also important to recognise the significant benefits that will be delivered through the creation of a dedicated gymnastics facility and inflatable fun area.

The proposed development will substantially increase participation and utilisation of the facility throughout the year. The current indoor bowling provision serves approximately 80 bowlers 5-6 months of the year, whereas the new facility is expected to support participation by more than 200 children each week. The new facility will also provide a year-round offer, increasing use across all 12 months of the year and maximising the community value derived from the building.

The proposed gymnastics facility will create expanded opportunities for children and young people to participate in regular physical activity, develop movement skills, improve physical literacy and build confidence. Gymnastics provides a strong foundation for lifelong participation in sport and physical activity by developing balance, coordination, strength, flexibility and overall physical competence from an early age. These skills support wider health and wellbeing outcomes and contribute to children leading active and healthy lifestyles throughout their lives. The inflatable fun area will further broaden the appeal of the facility by providing an accessible and engaging environment for children and families to be active together. This will create additional opportunities for recreational activity, social interaction and enjoyment, encouraging participation from those who may not traditionally engage with organised sport.

The proposed change of use must be considered within the wider financial context facing Live Borders. The proposal forms part of the organisation's response to a requirement to address a funding gap of approximately £2 million and to ensure the long-term sustainability of services and community assets across the Scottish Borders.

While the assessment has identified impacts associated with the loss of indoor bowling at Tweedbank, the option of taking no action would present significant risks to the financial sustainability of Live Borders and, consequently, to the future of larger multi-use leisure, sport, culture and community facilities used by a much wider cross-section of the population. These facilities support thousands of users each year, including many individuals and groups with protected characteristics who rely on them for physical activity, health improvement, social connection, learning and community participation.

The assessment therefore recognises that, although the proposed change of use will have some adverse impacts on a relatively small number of existing users, these impacts can be mitigated through the measures identified within this assessment. In contrast, a failure to achieve the required savings could place at risk services and facilities that provide substantial benefits to a far greater number of people, including older people, disabled people, children and young people, and those experiencing health inequalities.

Therefore, the initial assessment remains valid.

Section 2: Monitoring and Review

A. Please indicate if the proposal will proceed:

- ☐ No, the proposal will not proceed based on disproportionate impact on equality or Fairer Scotland characteristics - please proceed to Section 4 to sign off.
- ☒ Yes, please continue with this section.

B. State how the implementation and impact of the proposal will be monitored, including implementation of any amendments? For example, what type of monitoring will there be? How frequent?

Live Borders will continue to work closely with affected user groups, clubs, partners and individuals throughout the implementation of the proposed change. This will include ongoing engagement with Tweedbank Bowling Club, the Disability Bowling Club, participants attending bowling through NHS-supported programmes, and other regular users to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures and alternative opportunities are identified and delivered.

Sports Development staff will work directly with bowling clubs and individual bowlers who wish to continue participating in indoor bowls, providing support, information and practical assistance to help users transition to alternative venues, including Hawick, Dalkeith and Meadowmill where appropriate.

For those unable or choosing not to transfer to another bowling venue, Live Borders and sports development will identify suitable alternative activities that continue to support physical activity, social connection, wellbeing and inclusion.

The findings and recommendations of this Impact Assessment will inform the implementation and transition planning process. Subject to the proposed change proceeding, affected users would continue to have access to the Tweedbank facility until September 2026, providing a period during which mitigation measures can be put in place. Implementation of the identified mitigation actions will therefore commence following the conclusion of this IIA, allowing sufficient time to engage with users, support transitions to alternative venues and activities, and address any individual requirements that may arise.

C. What are the practical arrangements for monitoring? For example, who will put this in place? When will it start?

Monitoring of the identified impacts and mitigation measures will be coordinated by Live Borders and will commence following completion of this Impact Assessment and in advance of the proposed change taking effect in September 2026.

Many of the affected user groups are already supported through established programmes delivered by Live Borders or partner organisations. This includes the Disability Bowling Club, which is supported through Sports Development, and participants attending bowling through NHS-supported health interventions and Live Borders Parkinson's activities. As these groups are already overseen by professional staff and partner organisations, ongoing monitoring of participation levels, user feedback, outcomes and any emerging issues can be incorporated into existing programme management and review arrangements.

Live Borders and Sports Development staff will continue to engage with affected users and clubs throughout the transition period, providing support to individuals who wish to continue participating in indoor bowls. Live Borders will also liaise with Teviotdale Bowling Club and other alternative bowling venues to monitor the number of bowlers who transfer to alternative facilities and to understand any barriers to participation that arise.

The effectiveness of mitigation measures, including participation in alternative bowling venues and alternative physical activity opportunities, will be reviewed on an ongoing basis through engagement with users, clubs, NHS partners and programme leads. Where monitoring identifies that mitigations are not achieving the intended outcomes, Live Borders will work with partners and affected groups to consider additional support or alternative approaches to minimise adverse impacts and maintain opportunities for physical activity, wellbeing and social connection.

D. When is the proposal due for review?

The proposed change of use is intended to be permanent and is therefore not subject to a formal review of the decision itself. The proposal involves significant capital investment and physical alterations to the facility to enable its redevelopment as a dedicated gymnastics and inflatable fun facility. As a result, once implemented, there is no intention to revert to the previous indoor bowling use.

E. Who is responsible for ensuring that this happens?

Live Borders will monitor the alternatives and success of the change of use.

Section 3: Action Plan

A. Please indicate if you have developed an Action Plan to take forward any remaining actions.

- ☐ No, please proceed to Section 4.
☒ Yes, please continue with this section.

B. Action Owner Name:

Head of Leisure Services, Vicki Kennedy

C. Action Date:

From July 2026 to July 2027

D. What is the issue?

Ensuring the change of use is implemented effectively.

E. What action will be taken?

Implementation of the change of use including all mitigations agreed with user groups.

F. Progress against the action:

Design work for change of use has started. Conversations have already taken place with all impacted groups, and alternative activities are being developed.

G. Action Completed?

☒ No
☐ Yes

H. Date Completed:

Please enter date here

Section 4: Sign Off

A. Does your IIA contain sensitive information? (If your IIA Stage 1 contained sensitive information you should select Yes).

☒ No
☐ Yes

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