

Summary of the Teviot & Liddesdale Community Fund Working Group

Monday 28th February, 6pm

In attendance: Billy Fletcher, Cameron Knox, Marion Short, Dale Ploughman, Rebecca Woods, Philip Kerr, Craig McAdam, Greg Cuthbert, Andrew Warburton, Scott McKail, Gillian Jardine

Apologies: Barbara Elborn

Summary of discussion

- Initial proposal to have one Community Fund pot rather than a Pot A and Pot B but have different levels of funding within this
- Rural areas felt a Pot A fund is still required and that the delay in opening the Community Fund caused confusion and resulted in a slower uptake of the Pot A funds
- Hobkirk has struggled to engage people but there are a couple possible applications in the pipeline
- Southdean believes having no limit to their fund made it easier for them to spend their pot
- Comment that the funds would likely have been spent if there had been a full financial year to spend the money within
- Belief that smaller grants will encourage groups to come forward with an application
- Question on how well SBC promoted the funds
- Concerns raised that funding could be awarded to unconstituted groups and what the risks are for umbrella groups who agree to support unconstituted groups
- Suggestion that some members of the community may have been confused with the two pots
- Panels feel that awards need to be processed quicker and believe they can meet at short notice as a panel to assess applications so they have a quicker turn around – this would not be the case for applications that have to go to Area Partnership for decision

Proposal

- Keep a Pot A and Pot B fund
- Have three application options for Pot A
 - a micro-grant process which panel would assess and make a recommendation to Elected Members
 - a resilience themed Fast Track option (look at HCC's microgrant process) which panels would assess and make a recommendation to Elected Members
 - no application limit (these larger applications would be assessed by panels and a recommendation made to the Area Partnership)
- Any Pot A underspends are carried forward to 2022/23 and returned to the CC who had the underspend
- The split of Pot A and Pot B and funding application limits will be decided when the budget is confirmed for 2022/23

Outstanding:

- Do not know what Upper Teviotdale wish to do with their allocation for 2022/23

- Do all panels now wish to see supporting documents of applicants i.e. annual accounts?
- I don't think a value was agreed for the microgrant limit – is it £500
- Is the Fast Track limit to remain at £1,500?