

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

<p>A. Title of Proposal:</p>	<p>Community Conversations</p>
<p>B. What is it?</p>	<p>A revised Practice x</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>The Council is committed to better understanding, and working with, communities. The Community Conversations are element within a wider network of regular engagement activity which takes place across the organisation and a key approach highlighted in our Community Engagement Strategy.</p> <p>Community Conversations are now in their third year and have adapted and changed based on community feedback and learning from previous sessions</p> <p>Community Conversations will now become a ‘business as usual’ activity’ and be led by the Communities and Partnership Team.</p>

	Community Conversations will focus on specific items for discussion and these will take place throughout the year.
	Communities and Partnerships
E. Lead Officer: (Name and job title)	Kenny Harrow Communities and Partnership Manager
F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)	
G. Date(s) IIA completed:	Completed 13/01/2025

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

No <i>(please delete as applicable)</i>
If yes, - please state here: Scottish Borders Council Plan and the Councils Financial Plans

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Relevance to the Equality Duty:
Do you believe your proposal has any relevance under the Equality Act 2010?

(If you believe that your proposal may have some relevance – however small please indicate yes. If there is no effect, please enter “No” and go to Section 3.2.)

Equality Duty	Reasoning:
A. Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment. <i>(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)</i>	Yes. Conversations with the general public, including people with different protected characteristics enables the Council to gather a broader range of evidence which influences our decision-making and can help reduce direct and indirect discrimination.
B. Promotion of equality of opportunity? <i>(Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)</i>	Yes – by engaging with the public across our communities it aims to provide an equal platform to be engaged in conversations
C. Foster good relations? <i>(Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)</i>	Yes – By engaging with the public, across a multiplicity of equality characteristics (e.g. young people) it is hoped that community conversation can help foster good relations.

3.2 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)				
Please tick below as appropriate, outlining any potential impacts on the undernoted equality groups this proposal may have and how you know this.				
	Impact			Please explain the potential impacts and how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
Age Older or younger people or a specific age grouping		x		Community Conversations allows people of all ages to engage with key council decisions.

				<p>Community conversations will use a variety of engagement methods to encourage a diverse and wide range of comments and participation.</p> <p>Specific conversations for young people are being developed that will follow the principles of the Youth Engagement strategy.</p>
<p>Disability e.g. Effects on people with mental, physical, sensory impairment, learning disability, visible/invisible, progressive or recurring</p>		x		<p>Community Conversations allows people of all ages, regardless of their disabilities and abilities to engage in key council decisions.</p> <p>In planning and scheduling community conversations, efforts are made to ensure good geographic availability of events in disabled access facilities across the Scottish Borders to optimise access. Moreover, the physical engagement embodied within community conversations sit alongside digital engagement with the public, such as the related budget survey. The Council is concerned to promote different modes of engagement to maximise the opportunities for access for all ages, regardless of disability. An exception is that specific adjustments have not been made in respect of mental health and learning disability. It is intended to review the Council's efforts in respect of these.</p>

Gender Reassignment/ Gender Identity anybody whose gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth	x			Community Conversations are open to all within the community to attend.
Marriage or Civil Partnership people who are married or in a civil partnership	x			
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),	x			Community Conversations are open to all within the community to attend. Consideration should be given to location of event and the option to host sessions online so that everyone in the community feels that they are able to contribute to the conversation.
Race Groups: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)	x			specific adjustments have not been put in place this year, but the Council is determined to ensure that it actively engages with communities, with a focus on hearing from the less often heard. Including those of colour, nationality and those that have sought asylum in the Scottish borders.'
Religion or Belief: different beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief)	x			
Sex women and men (girls and boys)	x			
Sexual Orientation , e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual	x			

3.3 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:

	Impact			State here how you know this
	No Impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	
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.		x		the Community Conversations work in conjunction with a range of other engagement processes, many of them service specific which seek feedback from groups with protected characteristics or groups representing those/persons who are materially deprived.

				Further development of community conversations will review how engagement with those with protected characteristics/material deprivation etc are facilitated
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		x		As above
Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport)		x		Community conversations will have a specific focus to engage with less heard voices through the work of Community Learning and Development and via locality plans. Community views will be sought as to how we reduce and rural deprivation.
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income		x		As above
Looked after and accommodated children and young people	x			
Carers paid and unpaid including family members	x			

Homelessness	x			
Addictions and substance use				
Those involved within the criminal justice system	x			

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 this has been considered and any specific provision made:
The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;	

<p>The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.3.

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.

Signed by Lead Officer:	
Designation:	
Date:	
Counter Signature Director:	
Date:	