

RELEASE DRAFT ONCE FUND HAS OPENED

LAG 2026/27



New Funding Opportunities Now Open to Communities and Businesses in the Scottish Borders

The Scottish Borders Local Action Group (LAG) has launched two new funds designed to support the development and delivery of community-based projects: the **Growing the Economy Fund** and the **Community Development Fund**.

The LAG is a volunteer-led partnership made up of local people and organisations from the private, public and third sectors. Together, they are committed to strengthening communities and enhancing the lives of residents across the Scottish Borders.

Hans Waltl, Chair of the LAG, said:

“Last year, we awarded more than £322,000 to almost 30 community organisations, businesses, voluntary groups, and young people across the Borders. This year, we are introducing two new funding schemes shaped directly by local feedback on what’s needed most. We’re excited to see the innovative ideas that will come forward and to continue supporting projects that make a real difference in the Borders.”

Grants of up to £25,000 are available via the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) funds and are open to Small/Micro Businesses, Private Sector, Enterprise Organisations, Third Sector and Community and Voluntary organisations.

The **Growing the Economy Fund** is open to businesses with a clear intention to generate profit—this is the main eligibility requirement for applicants.

To be considered for the **Community Development Fund**, projects must demonstrate a meaningful contribution to at least one of the following priority themes:

- **Net Zero**
- **Poverty Alleviation**
- **Improved Public Services and Tackling Exclusion**

Businesses that have previously received funding are welcome to apply again for support with new projects. However, priority will be given to organisations applying for the first time.

The LAG would particularly welcome proposals that support Net Zero ambitions, enhance skills and apprenticeships, deliver leadership development, encourage partnership working, or provide mentoring opportunities.

This will operate as a two-stage process, beginning with the submission of an Expression of Interest (Eoi) followed by a full application. There will be **two funding rounds** only, with closing dates of **20th May and 1st July 2026**. All grant funding must be fully spent by **28th February 2027**.

The Expression of Interest window will be open from **8th April 2026**.

To arrange a meeting to discuss your project proposals and assess eligibility, please contact the team at: cldgrants@scotborders.gov.uk.

The LAG is working in partnership with Scottish Borders Council to deliver this funding and will use the Council's Expression of Interest form. The form can be accessed via the Council website at:

[Funding Support – Expression of Interest Form | Grant Funding for Community Projects | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)