

Please ask for:

Declan Hall – Elections

E-Mail:

elections@scotborders.gov.uk

Date:

17 December 2025

Dear Community Members,

As Returning Officer for the Scottish Borders my team and I are committed to ensuring that elections are accessible, inclusive, and welcoming for everyone. We recognise that people with disabilities — including those experiencing sight loss, deafness, mobility challenges, and other access needs — may face barriers when exercising their right to vote. It is our responsibility to listen, learn, and act to remove those barriers wherever possible.

We are beginning a programme of engagement to better understand your experiences and to work together on improvements. To do this effectively, we want to hear directly from you and your organisations about:

- **How you would like to engage with us** — whether through in-person sessions, digital meetings, or visits to your groups so we can hear about your experiences directly.
- **What changes or support would make voting easier and more accessible for you** — from the physical environment of polling stations, to information formats, communication support, and any other aspects of the voting process.
- **Your ideas for ongoing collaboration** — so that accessibility remains at the heart of how elections are delivered in the Scottish Borders.

Your voices are essential in shaping a voting experience that works for everyone. We want to build a partnership where accessibility is not an afterthought, but a central part of our planning and delivery.

If you or your group would like to take part in this engagement, please contact us to let us know the best way to connect. My team can be contacted via email at elections@scotborders.gov.uk, telephone on 01835 826556 or by writing to:

The Returning Officer
Council Headquarters,
Newtown St. Boswells
Melrose
TD6 0SA

Together, we can ensure that elections across the Scottish Borders are fair, inclusive, and accessible to all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Robertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the last name.

David Robertson
Returning Officer
Scottish Borders Council