

News Release

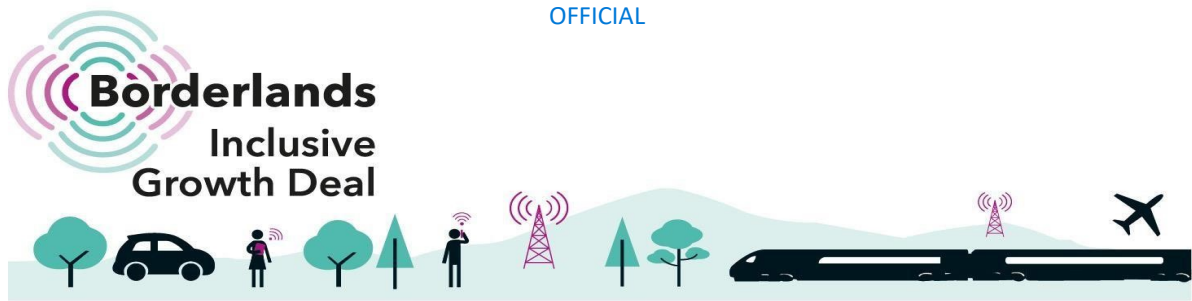
19 May 2021

Business experts join the new Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Economic Forum

The new business-led Borderlands Economic Forum is now in place, to support delivery of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. Working in support of the Borderlands Partnership Board, the ten private business representatives on the Economic Forum will bring commercial experience to complement public sector stakeholders from the South of Scotland Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, and the Cumbria and North East Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The Deal was formally signed by the Partnership and the Scottish and UK Governments on 18th March, bringing in up to £452million of fresh investment to the Borderlands area. It is a step change for businesses and communities of the Borderlands, addressing the challenges around increasing productivity, growing the working age population and delivering a more inclusive economy. A range of projects will deliver up to 5,500 jobs and £1.1billion of additional GVA with a sustainable and inclusive approach to growth. The Deal is unique, being the only cross-border deal and covering the largest geographical area of any regional growth Deal – around 10% of the land mass of the UK.

Cumbria-based business consultant Jack Stopforth is the newly elected Chair of the Borderlands Economic Forum. He said:



"I am delighted to be elected as the first Chair of the Borderlands Economic Forum. The Deal will enable the Borderlands area to create sustainable jobs, re-invigorate the economy, and build strategically for long term growth and prosperity. We are excited to be involved in its delivery and want to engage the wider business community to ensure that we see the maximum return of investment, jobs and training opportunities for local people and inward investors".

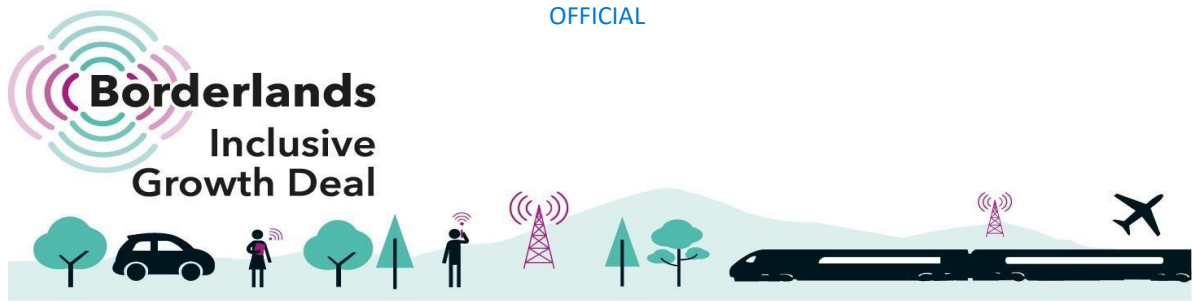
Cllr John Mallinson, Leader of Carlisle City Council and Borderlands Partnership Board Co-Chair, said:

"Our new Economic Forum is a key part of delivering the Deal, bringing the business voice to the table and helping us to remain connected to the business community across the region. I'm looking forward to the knowledge and experience they will contribute.

Cllr Shona Haslam, Leader of Scottish Borders Council and Borderlands Partnership Co-Chair said:

"The Deal is an ambitious approach to cross-border working between Governments, local authorities and other partners which will boost economic growth by helping existing business, encouraging new ventures and bringing a wealth of improvements to our region, so it is vital to have the business community with us".

The Deal will deliver across four themes: improving places; enabling infrastructure; encouraging green growth; and supporting innovation, business and skills. Each theme has an agreed set of projects which will help deliver a step change for the



businesses and communities of Borderlands by increasing productivity, growing the working age population and delivering a more inclusive economy.

The Borderlands Partnership is made up of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council.

For more information, visit the Partnership website at www.Borderlandsgrowth.com

Ends

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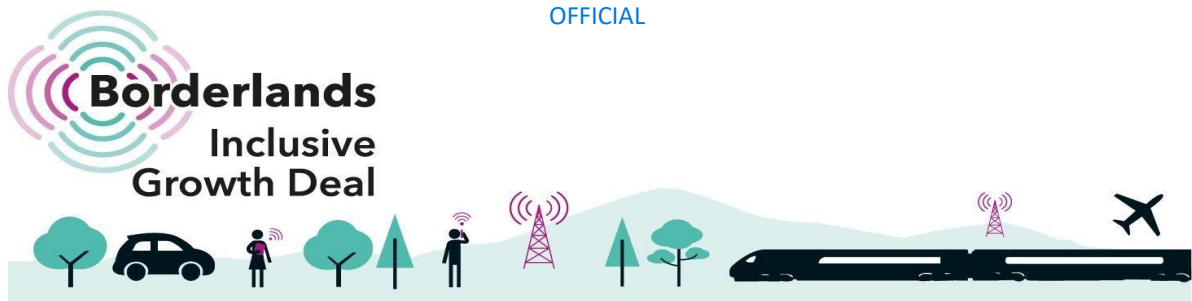
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Note to editors

The £350 million investment from the UK and Scottish Governments is made up of £150 million for Scotland (£85 million from the Scottish Government and £65 million from the UK Government) and up to £200 million for England from the UK Government. This will be supported by over £100million of funding from local partners.

The Borderlands Economic Forum is made up of business representatives from all five Partnership Authorities. The Chair of the Forum has a seat on the Partnership Board. Full minutes of all Economic Forum meetings will be published on the Borderlands website as well as details of the current membership.

The members of the Forum are:

- Jack Stopforth MBE MA - Borderlands Economic Forum Chair, Taylor Stopforth (Consulting) Limited
- John Berry - Director, TimelessTime Ltd
- Chris Brodie - Lead Head of Skills Planning and Sector Development at Skills Development Scotland
- Emma Porter - Board Member, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, Managing Director – Construction, Story Contracting
- William Colquhoun - Senior Partner and founder of Lomond CEO Services
- John Fordyce - Managing Director, The Borders Distillery
- Helen Golightly - Chief Executive, North East Local Enterprise Partnership
- Professor Russel Griggs OBE - Chair of South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)
- Lord Inglewood - Chair Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership
- Paul Kasiera – Front Line Leader, Pirelli Ltd Carlisle
- Hamish Macleod - Public Affairs Advisor, BSW Timber Group
- Michael Orde - Director, Savills
- John Paterson - Director, Egger Forestry
- Fiona Stoddart - Creator Solwayconnections Guided Tours