



Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

Progress Update - May 2018



The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is unique. It is an ambitious approach to cross-border working between Governments, local authorities and partners. The Borderlands Partnership brings together the five cross-border local authorities of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council. The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is focusing on ways to make the area more attractive to investors, visitors and those who may wish to relocate. Whilst not everyone will see a project in their town, the scale of the projects/ programmes will benefit the whole area.

Throughout March and April, we held a series of workshops relating to our key Borderlands 'themes'. On topics such as Digital Connection, Energy, Transport; Tourism and Business, to name but a few, we spoke with Civil Servants who are the specialists in these areas in order to gather the evidence needed to develop our outline business cases. The evidence we collected will now be analysed throughout May and June.

Some updates on the Borderlands themes are as follows.





Energy

Our Borderlands area is a significant generator of clean energy through renewable sources, such as wind energy, and planned new nuclear power. This cluster of energy assets in the region presents a significant opportunity to use energy as to help drive economic and social growth.

The Borderlands Partnership has ambitions to not only exploit our established energy assets but also to encourage and support further investment in the industry. This will supply clean, cheap energy to the region and to attract new business investment through:

The Borderlands Energy Company the proposal is to establish a mechanism to support future investment in generating and providing energy. The company could be used to:

- ✦ Support additional forms of renewable energy, such as: tidal, geothermal and hydrogen generation.
- ✦ Support the development of inclusive community energy generation.

Chapelcross - Situated near Annan, this 200 hectare former nuclear power plant would be developed into a generator of clean energy. It will also provide sites and premises for businesses with a significant energy need. In order to exploit the site, including its grid connection, it is proposed to invest in new roads and utilities to unlock private sector investment.



Digital

Digital connections are very important to making places attractive to investors, visitors and those who wish to relocate to live in the area. Improvement of the digital network is the most effective way of boosting effective working, and will help all people and businesses across the Borderlands region. The Borderlands Partnership is developing a Digital Borderlands programme that is focusing on:

- ✦ **Superfast** - roll-out for the last 5% of full fibre infrastructure (with a focus on England only, to align with the R100 programme in Scotland).
- ✦ **Hyperfast** - the delivery of hyperfast or gigabit broadband services, which can achieve speeds of 1GB or higher, at strategic employment sites and service centres to create opportunities for economic growth.
- ✦ **4G and 5G coverage** - facilitate deployment of further 4G coverage and 5G testbeds and trials.



Transport Connectivity

Transport connectivity through the Borderlands is important to the future prosperity of the area. This is extremely relevant in rural areas where people are disadvantaged by transport connections. The Borderlands Partnership has identified a series of transport improvements to road and rail infrastructure across the region that will be promoted through the Borderlands Partnership. The commencement of commercial flights from Carlisle Airport has the potential to have a transformational impact on connectivity to the Borderlands area.

Two flagship projects have been identified as integral to the Inclusive Growth Deal:

✦ **The Borders Railway:** Proposed extension of the Borders Railway line from Tweedbank to Carlisle. Feasibility and technical studies will be required to progress this cross-border transport project.

✦ **Carlisle Station Gateway:** This project will see the delivery of a transformative regeneration scheme for Carlisle Station. Carlisle is the busiest station interchange in the Borderlands area and a key transport hub. The regeneration of the station will look at delivering improved access, commercial facilities, additional car parking and enhanced public spaces and will unlock development opportunities on adjacent sites.

These improvements will transform the role of the station and support the delivery of HS2 services to Cumbria; underpinning a wider transformation to the southern entrance to Carlisle City Centre.

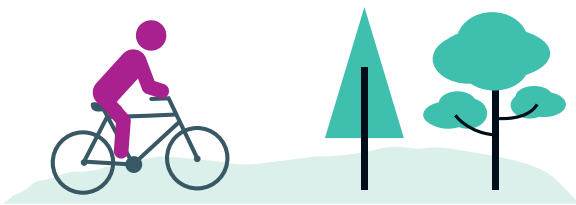


Business

We have many diverse rural businesses that are the life-blood of our rural economy. The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal aims to support these businesses to grow, attract investment and encourage more innovation active companies.

Currently, the region's economy is characterised by poor levels of efficiency, innovation and exporting potential of local businesses. There is also a lack of high quality employment sites and premises, which could attract new businesses to the area. This project is looking to address these issues by exploring the Borderlands area. This would be designed to target support to businesses which will deliver increases business efficiency and generate private sector investment.





Destination Borderlands

The tourism sector plays a major role in the economy of the Borderlands region. The Borderlands represents a unique destination for in excess of 59 million visitors who are particularly attracted to its breath-taking open spaces and smaller city, market towns and villages with distinctive culture and heritage. The Destination Borderlands programme aims to seek to secure funding to achieve the following outcomes:

- ❖ Increase visitor numbers, spend and length of stay through enhancements to visitor assets.
- ❖ Improve tourism connections and routes within the Borderlands region from key arrival points and visitor hubs.
- ❖ Maximise the benefits from the opening of Carlisle Airport.

Quality of Place

The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal recognises that our primary challenge is population growth: specifically the need to attract more working age people to the area to improve our productivity and to grow our economy. We need to ensure that our market and coastal towns are sustainable and vibrant. To this end we are developing proposals to encourage more investment and stimulate new activity and into these places.

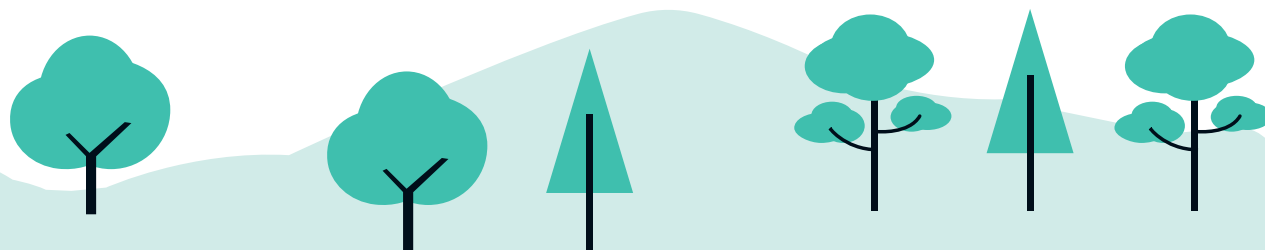
Rural Productivity

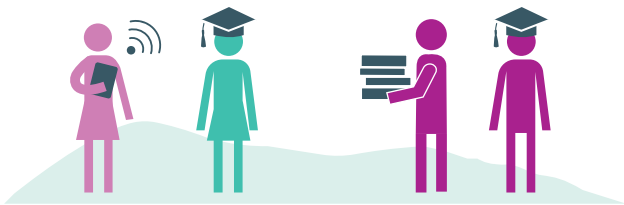
The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is an opportunity to significantly increase the work done to inspire innovative working practices in rural land management across the area and to establish a new future.

We are extremely lucky to live in an area with such an abundance of natural assets and cultural heritage. Understanding the value that our area's natural, cultural and geographical assets provide, the 'natural capital', is key to identifying and unlocking future opportunities.

The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal provides the chance to drive and support the delivery of better and more coordinated opportunities for growth on both land and sea which will be crucial in the post Brexit context.

The Borderlands Partnership is exploring the potential of local approaches, developed with local stakeholders, through shared ideas, will identify possibilities, some of which we may not have already thought of. This could drive improvements in productivity and form the basis of pilots to test new ways of providing support through public and private sector investment.





Skills and Innovation

Given the nature of the widening differences between the education systems in the north and south of The Borderlands, there is a significant challenge to developing an integrated offer for a population which is 'Border Blind'.

The people living, working and studying across the area don't necessarily conform to the administrative boundaries and our collective task is to suggest ways in which our people can connect, live, work and seek investment in the area.

As already mentioned the aspiration for Borderlands is to be seen as a centre for excellence in all aspects of rural land management and to support advances in innovation and skills development across the piece. The Borderlands is such a diverse area that it can be a test bed for all sorts of rural innovation link sectors and investment to improve connections between businesses and research facilities.

To achieve this the Borderlands Partnership is exploring the potential to establish a series of virtual learning and innovation hubs such as 'Newton Rooms'. These are a network of innovative, connected spaces for Borderlands residents to access resources and teaching.

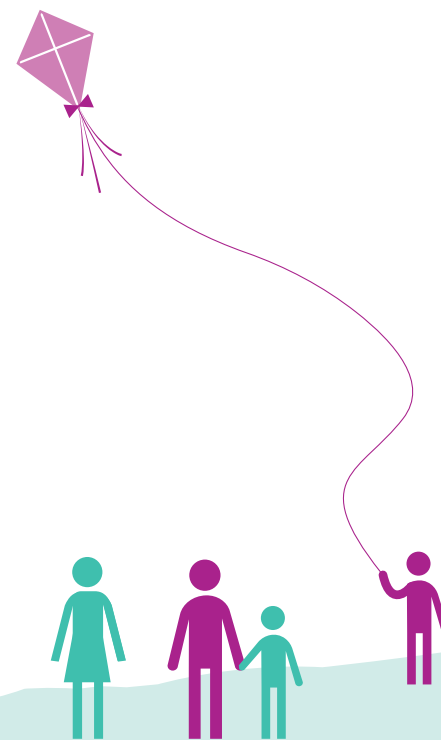
Ongoing Engagement

The Northern Powerhouse Partnership hosted a Borderlands Deal roundtable meeting chaired by Lord O'Neill held in Carlisle on 19 April and in Northumberland on 18 April. The meetings gave positive endorsement to the development of a Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal with UK and Scottish Governments. The roundtable highlighted how the Deal creates the opportunity to address some of the strategic issues affecting the local economy recognising there a number of infrastructure challenges yet great economic opportunity across the Borderlands region.

Ongoing engagement events being held by the South of Scotland Economic Partnership across the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway are enabling local businesses, organisations and individuals the chance to have a single conversation around the future South of Scotland Enterprise Agency, the interim work programme of the Economic Partnership and also potential opportunities for the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. These events will run until 7 June.

Breaking news:

Carlisle MP, John Stevenson was confirmed as the Borderlands Champion for England in the UK Prime Minister's Questions on 2 May 2018. Partners are looking forward to working with John and welcome his support.



Next Steps

Borderlands Conference

Our first Borderlands Conference will be held at the Easterbrook Hall in Dumfries on Monday 18 June 2018. It will be an opportunity to meet with other interested parties and show how the Borderlands Partners have taken forward the ideas and suggestions provided through the ongoing dialogue through engagement with Stakeholders.

Key Government Ministers will attend and participate in discussions on the day.

We will hold thematic workshops and conversations to discuss the way forward. We will keep you updated on these nearer the time. Until then, if you would like to register your interest, visit: www.borderlandsgrowth.com/get-involved

Consultation – Why not get involved?

Borderlands Partners continue to meet key stakeholders on an ongoing basis. If you would like to discuss opportunities, ideas and possible working relationships with us, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The Borderlands' website www.borderlandsgrowth.com provides information on the Borderlands Partnership work to date and our plans for the future.

You can also keep in touch via email info@borderlandsgrowth.com

The Borderlands Partnership is made up of:

