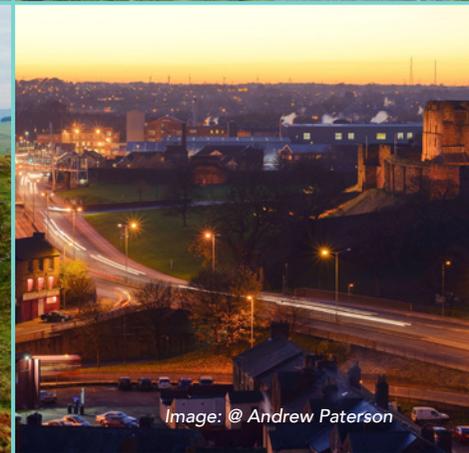




# BORDERLANDS INCLUSIVE GROWTH DEAL SUMMARY MARCH 2021





## BOARD FOREWORD

We're delighted to introduce the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.

As the first cross border Deal, covering the largest area of any of the growth deals agreed to date, we are proud to say it is truly distinctive. It commits fresh investment into our region and will be jointly funded by the Scottish Government (£85m) and the UK Government (up to £265m), to bring a total contribution of up to £350m. This will be supported by at least £100m of local funding and will collectively support work to achieve future economic growth making the most of our outstanding natural environment to bring opportunities for our people and businesses and contribute to net zero carbon ambitions.

The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is a cohesive and integrated investment package with a balance between high profile place-based projects and Borderlands-wide investment programmes that respond to the rural nature of the region. The Deal is focused on four strategic themes of improving places; enabling infrastructure; encouraging green growth and supporting business, innovation 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. We are starting the Deal amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Deal responds to this and will contribute to our recovery efforts but is focused beyond this immediate challenge to make the longer-term changes we need to see.

We have already started work with several projects having received early funding, demonstrating our commitment and readiness to deliver within the already well-established partnership and governance structure.

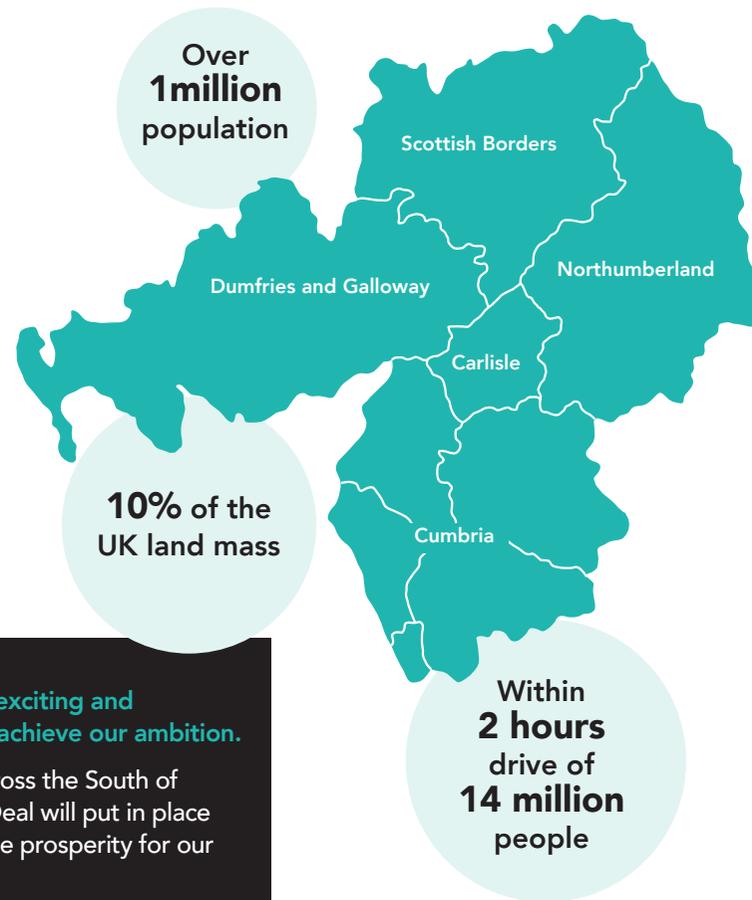
This Deal will help our region grow and fulfil our shared ambition. We want the Borderlands to reach its potential for everyone, delivering green growth and attracting new businesses and investment. We will improve our connectivity, deliver skills and innovation, and improve our places to support their longer-term resilience. We will attract new residents and welcome more visitors to enjoy the beautiful natural environment of our vibrant, inclusive region.



# Borderlands Partnership Shared Ambition

We have a shared ambition for the Borderlands to reach its potential for everyone, delivering green growth and attracting new businesses and investment.

We will improve our connectivity, deliver skills and innovation, and improve our places to support their longer-term resilience. We will attract new residents and welcome more visitors to enjoy the beautiful natural environment of our vibrant, inclusive region.



The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is an exciting and transformational opportunity for our area to achieve our ambition.

By bringing over £450m of new investment across the South of Scotland, Northumberland and Cumbria, the Deal will put in place the elements we need for long-term sustainable prosperity for our people, places and businesses.

## Our Deal makes the most of our shared opportunities.

We have an exceptionally high quality of natural environment, well known and undiscovered tourism destinations, attractive towns and city and a broad business base. Well connected to the Northern Powerhouse cities and central belt in Scotland, we have a unique offer. We have the potential to be at the forefront of a more sustainable and inclusive economy by embracing new technologies and processes and investing in places.

We also aim to overcome three challenges which hold us back from our potential:

-  Narrowing the productivity gap
-  Increasing the working age population
-  Achieving inclusive growth

Through our Deal we will deliver noticeable change through inclusive and sustainable growth:



Benefit 1.1 million residents



Deliver an additional 5,500 job opportunities



Attract more than four million extra tourists to the area



Improve mobile and digital connections



Unlock investment in towns across the area



Generate around £1.1 billion in additional GVA to the UK economy



## Improving places

Our places matter and are at the heart of what makes the Borderlands a special place to live, work and visit. To improve our ability to attract new people to our area and revitalise our towns and communities we will invest £127.5m in our places and tourism offer.

As part of improving our places we will support three areas:

**Destination Borderlands** – will support seven distinct tourism projects across the Borderlands which will increase the number of visitors as well as the length of stays, extend the season and result in higher levels of spend. These projects cover major offers in cycling, walking and sailing as part of a world-class outdoor destination and are:

- Hadrian's Wall and the Roman Frontier (£18m)
- See More Lake District Cycling (£6m)
- Destination Tweed (£11m)
- Stranraer Marina (£16m)
- Lilidorei at The Alnwick Garden (£5m)
- 7Stanes (£5m)
- Star of Caledonia (£1.5m)

**The Place Programme** – a distinctive approach to support place-based growth through a series of Place and Town Investment Plans. These Plans will be developed in and by the community to renew the vibrancy of their area as part of a £50m programme.

**Berwick Theatre** – will use £15m of funding to develop a new iconic, multi-purpose and entertainment complex drawing new audiences to Berwick.





## Supporting business, innovation and skills

The long-term success of the Borderlands region is dependent on our ability to prosper and be ready to take advantage of new opportunities, technologies, and ideas. We are home to a wide range of forward-looking people, businesses and organisations and will invest £54m across business, innovation, and skills projects.

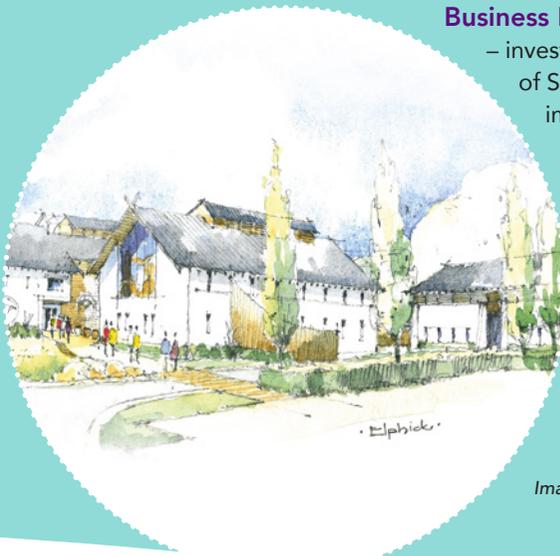
Through this investment we will support three programmes:

### Business Infrastructure Programme

– investing £13.4m across the South of Scotland will support new and improved business units with sites in Coldstream, Hawick, Annan, Castle Douglas and Newton Stewart, to address the lack of modern business premises which are able to match current need.

In England, £3m of funding has already been awarded to support the Ad Gefrin Visitor Experience and Distillery in Wooler, Northumberland.

Image: @ Richard Elphic



### Mountain Bike Project

– will create the world's first Mountain Bike Innovation Centre working with South of Scotland Enterprise Agency and Edinburgh Napier University, and creating an integrated Adventure Bike Park and Trail Lab in Innerleithen with £19m investment from the Borderlands Deal.

### Rural Innovation and Skills

– we will support new projects to drive innovation in land-based sectors and enhance the skills provision to meet future demand. £8m will be invested to support the Dairy Nexus innovation centre with Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) which will move the sector to the forefront of the bio-economy.

We will also support the South of Scotland Learning Network through £7m of support and develop the Forestry Innovation Centre proposition to ensure the forestry sector is ready to adopt new approaches.





## Enabling infrastructure

We will invest £112.2m in improving access to the region and connectivity within and outside of the Borderlands. This will ensure the Borderlands is a connected place, contributing to the region's position as an attractive and competitive place to live, work and visit.

This theme will be delivered through investment in four major projects:

**Carlisle Station Gateway** – investing £20m in developing Carlisle Station as the gateway to Carlisle and a key transport hub with connections across the Borderlands including preparations for the arrival of HS2 in the future.



**Carlisle Citadels** – will use up to £50m of investment from the Borderlands Deal to transform the Grade 1 listed Citadels buildings into a new city centre campus for the University of Cumbria, expanding opportunities for local students and drawing in new students to the area.



**Digital Borderlands** – reshaping our regional economy through £36.2m to address the gaps in digital and mobile infrastructure across the Borderlands, catching up with other areas and putting in place the foundations for next generation connectivity.



**Borders Railway feasibility** – drawing on £10m to deliver the feasibility activity around the Borders Railway extension from Carlisle to Tweedbank.



## Encouraging Green Growth

We have outstanding natural assets and unique potential to be not only a net zero area but also to move to negative carbon territory. With potential to support the transition to a low carbon economy and support 'green growth' the Borderlands can lead the way in the UK's move to a low carbon future.

Protecting and making the most of our natural heritage is essential for our long-term prosperity. Whether through agriculture, aquaculture or tourism, we rely on our natural environment for our prosperity.

In support of this transition we will support three key opportunities with £56.3m funding:



**Chapelcross** – investing £15.3m of Borderlands funding to catalyse the redevelopment of the former nuclear power station at Chapelcross. This is a unique opportunity to develop a high-quality, green energy focused regional employment centre on the 210 hectare site.

This will support the generation of low carbon energy, including community generation across the Borderlands area, whilst supporting the need to overcome fuel poverty and putting the region at the forefront of net zero efforts.



**Energy Investment** – building on the recently launched £1.1m energy master planning programme, the Borderlands Deal will provide a further £29.9m for the implementation of the masterplan.



**Natural Capital Programme** – with £10m support we will trial new approaches to valuing and protecting our natural capital to capture the benefits of our environment in a sustainable way. This will cover a series of pilots covering marine, woodland, upland and agricultural areas.



Image: @ Jonathan Becker

## Delivering our Deal

The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is a major opportunity for our area. Building on the 2018 proposition and Heads of Terms from July 2019 our Deal marks a decade of investment with the benefits to be gained over the next 25 years.

To deliver this investment we have established a clear and robust approach to Governance through our Borderlands Partnership Board and supporting Economic Forum. The Economic Forum brings together our five local authorities, regional economic bodies such as the Cumbria LEP, North East LEP and South of Scotland Enterprise and private business. Together, they will oversee the delivery of our Deal. We are working closely with the UK Government and Scottish Government

as well as local partners to finalise the business cases for all of our projects. Once the full business cases are approved by the Borderlands Partnership Board and the relevant Government they will start to deliver. We already have approval and advanced funding for projects: Ad Gefrin Visitor Experience and Distillery, Lilidorei at The Alnwick Garden, Carlisle Station Gateway (Phase 1) and the Digital Vouchers top up scheme, as well as funding for the creation of a

Borderlands energy masterplan. All are now in delivery. The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal will be supported by a dedicated Programme Management Office and two accountable bodies, Dumfries and Galloway Council in Scotland and Northumberland County Council in England. Full details of the Deal and its projects are available on our website: [www.borderlandsgrowth.com](http://www.borderlandsgrowth.com)



# The Deal projects and programme

With projects and programmes located across the Borderlands, our strategic approach means our projects reinforce each other to transform our area.

Some are in distinct locations making the most of an existing asset or creating something new whilst others will be delivered across the full area as part of the overarching Deal themes.

## Legend

### Borderlands Activity

- Digital Infrastructure
- Energy Investment
- Place Programme
- Natural Capital
- Forestry Innovation Centre
- South of Scotland Learning Network

### Projects

- Business Infrastructure Sites
- 7stanes

