



Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

Progress Update - September 2018



The Story So Far

The Borderlands Partnership is unique. It brings together the five cross-border local authorities (Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council), to promote the economic growth and competitiveness of the area that straddles the Scotland-England border.

Since being referenced in the UK Government's budget statement (November 2017), it has gained significant momentum.

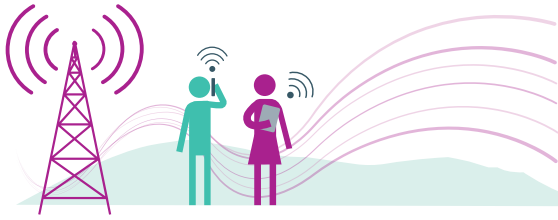
The first Borderlands Conference took place in Dumfries on Monday 18 June 2018 and gathered together more than 370 businesses, community groups and individuals with national and local politicians to discuss progress on this unique proposal.

The outcomes of the conference have informed the development of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal proposal. The Strategic Outline Business Cases - the first stage in developing the Borderlands Inclusive Deal - will be submitted to the UK and Scottish governments by the end of September 2018.

Borderlands Deal

Since the Borderlands Conference in June 2018 we have been working with partners to refine the ideas and proposals, taking on board your comments and using evidence to help shape our business cases. We have worked with civil servants from both UK and Scottish Governments and other partners to co-develop our business cases and the overall Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal proposal.





Digital Borderlands

Vision

Digital Borderlands is a transformational digital infrastructure project to deliver future-proofed connectivity improvements that will enhance rural productivity across the 9,000 square mile Borderlands region. Our ultimate ambition is to ensure all properties in the area have access to full fibre connectivity, complemented with 4G and 5G mobile connectivity. The Borderlands represents a challenging market location and we recognise our ambition must be pursued progressively. Our investment objectives are three-fold:

1. Borderlands to catch up and match UK levels of connectivity.
2. Equitable coverage across the Borderlands, with no place left far behind.
3. Deliver the connectivity to enhance business productivity and to allow Borderlands to secure and retain globally excellent digital activity into the future.



Borderlands Energy Investment Company

Vision

The proposal is for a strategic co-ordination and investment vehicle using a whole systems approach to support and bring forward new energy projects across the Borderlands area.

The Energy Investment Company (EIC) will invest in energy projects that create new jobs in the energy sector, generate cheaper energy for homes and businesses, reduce fuel poverty, attract inward investment, and help Borderlands become the first carbon neutral region in the UK.

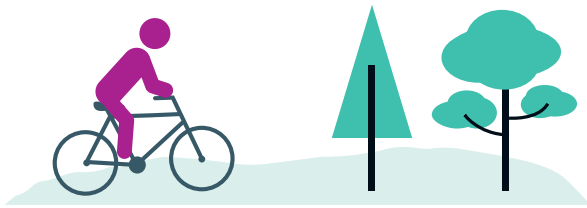


Quality of Place

Vision

To stimulate the repurpose and reinvention of towns and centres across the Borderlands to create places that are economically vibrant, resilient to change, and enable us to attract the working age population that is vital to the future of our economy and the long-term sustainability of our towns.

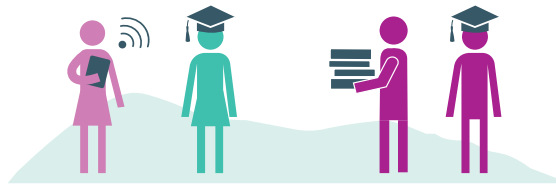




Destination Borderlands

Vision

Our Vision is for a Borderlands that has an established national and international profile, renowned for the breadth and quality of its tourism product and experiences, leading to an increase in visitor numbers and an increase in visitor expenditure. Our proposal is to invest in our heritage, recreational and cultural assets to build on the vital part that the tourism sector plays in our economy, and in turn driving improvements in our offer and sharing the benefit across our places and communities.



Knowledge Exchange Network

Vision

The proposal is to improve access to learning through establishment of a network of knowledge exchange hubs. The network will focus on increasing the productivity of the Borderlands labour force and businesses through equipping them with the knowledge, competencies and aspirations they need to participate in a future facing knowledge economy.

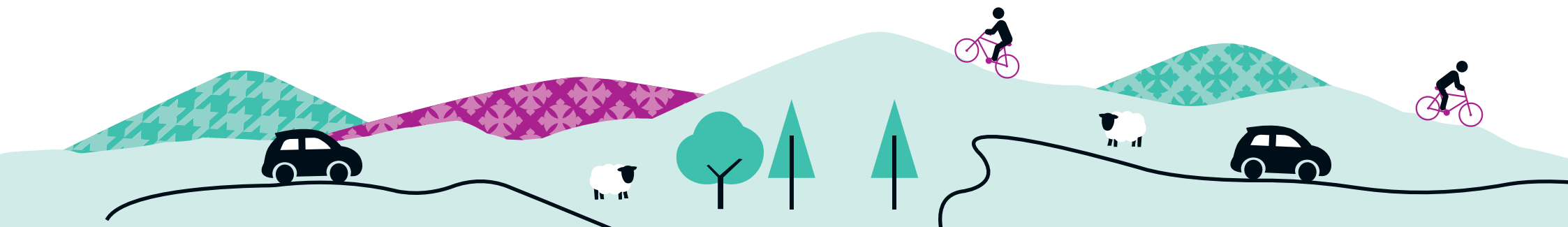
This will deliver increased learner numbers, raised skill levels and enhanced competitiveness in the business base, thereby supporting the vitality of Borderlands as a place to learn, live and work.



Business Infrastructure Programme

Vision

The Business Infrastructure Programme (BIP) will invest in business sites and infrastructure to support the development of business premises to accommodate business growth and diversification. It will address significant market challenges that have constrained development and business creation and growth across the region.



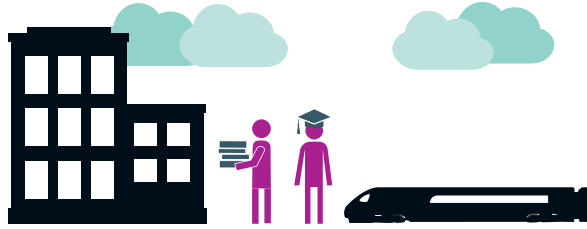


Mountain Bike Innovation

Vision

Creation of a world class destination for research and development, innovation, tourism and investment in mountain biking. The project includes:

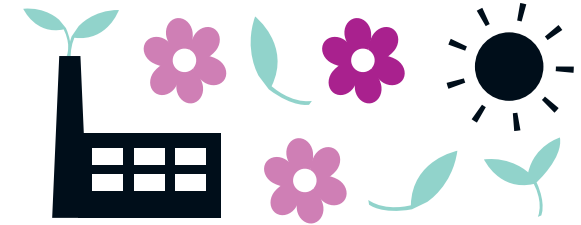
- Provision of an innovation hub through the renovation of Innerleithen (Caerlee) Mill to support the incubation and growth of a cycling industry innovation district.
- Creation of a world class bike and adventure park in the Tweed Valley.



Carlisle Station Gateway

Vision

The proposal is for a transformative project aimed at capitalising on the untapped potential of the area around Carlisle Station. The station acts as a central hub for connectivity within the Borderlands region and is key point of arrival into Carlisle City. The project will improve connectivity and access; increase footfall, vibrancy and activity in Carlisle city centre and attract young people to the area. Plans to develop this project are at an early stage and work is underway with a range of potential partners to maximise the potential of this scheme.



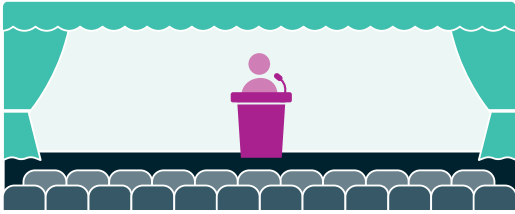
Chapelcross

Vision

Realise the potential of the 200 hectare former nuclear Chapelcross site through:

- Creation of a large-scale strategic mixed-use employment site for Borderlands with significant wider economic impact.
- Support the development of green energy production, storage and distribution solutions.





Berwick Theatre and Conference Centre

Vision

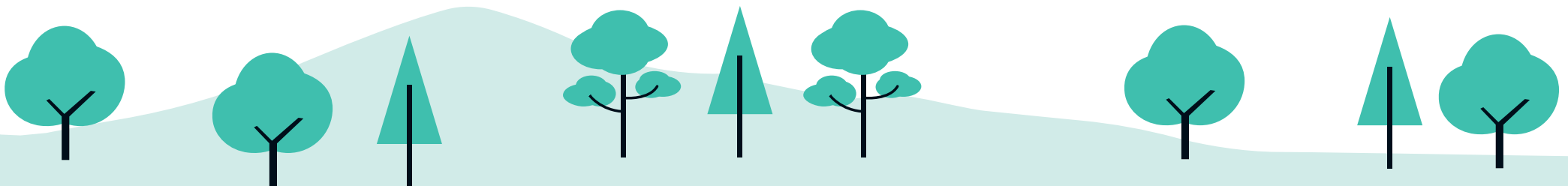
The proposal is to repurpose Berwick as a Border Town through the construction of an iconic new theatre and conference centre on the banks of the River Tweed that attract people to visit, live and work in Berwick. The new theatre will allow the internationally-renowned programme of The Maltings to be expanded and complemented with a multi-use conference space creating a 'must-visit' cultural and heritage destination between Edinburgh and Newcastle.



The Borders Railway

Vision

This proposal is for cross-border feasibility work for the extension of the Borders Railway from Carlisle to Tweedbank to bring transformational benefits to the Borderlands economy. It is a cross-border transport scheme connecting the Border City of Carlisle in England with Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. This project will assist the Borderlands in developing its offer to the world, help increase trade across the border and make the area more accessible as well as show-case the beauty of the area along this 'green' corridor.



In addition to the thematic areas we have been working on, we recognise the importance of transport to the area. We are keen to develop a collaborative partnership to work jointly with the UK and Scottish Governments in order to progress strategic transport schemes. This includes focusing on key Borderlands priorities:

- Support through the new West Coast Mainline franchise for improvements to Carlisle Station and for there to be direct HS2 services to London from Carlisle from 2026.
- Funding from MHCLG's Housing Infrastructure Fund for Carlisle Southern Link Road to support delivery of the St Cuthbert's Garden Village proposals.
- A commitment to progress feasibility work for improvements to the junction arrangements in the area around Gretna and to support development of Chapelcross as a strategic development site.
- A commitment to prioritise the upgrading of east-west transport links on both road and rail.

Given the rural nature of our Borderlands, we believe that the Borderlands area presents a unique opportunity to test at a landscape level what may replace Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funding in a way that develops new and holistic approaches to environmental, marine, agricultural, and other rural public good outcomes. This requires a shared and joint commitment to a number of policy asks associated with developing a Smart Countryside approach; conducting an integrated suite of Tests and Trials to demonstrate new approaches to land and marine management; and incentivising Sustainable Produce Scale Up.

Next steps

Each of the local authority partners is considering the proposal within their respective governance structures by the 30 September 2018. Over the coming months negotiations will continue with each government and we will let you know the outcome.

We will also provide updates at www.BorderlandsGrowth.com



The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal is being delivered by the following partners:

