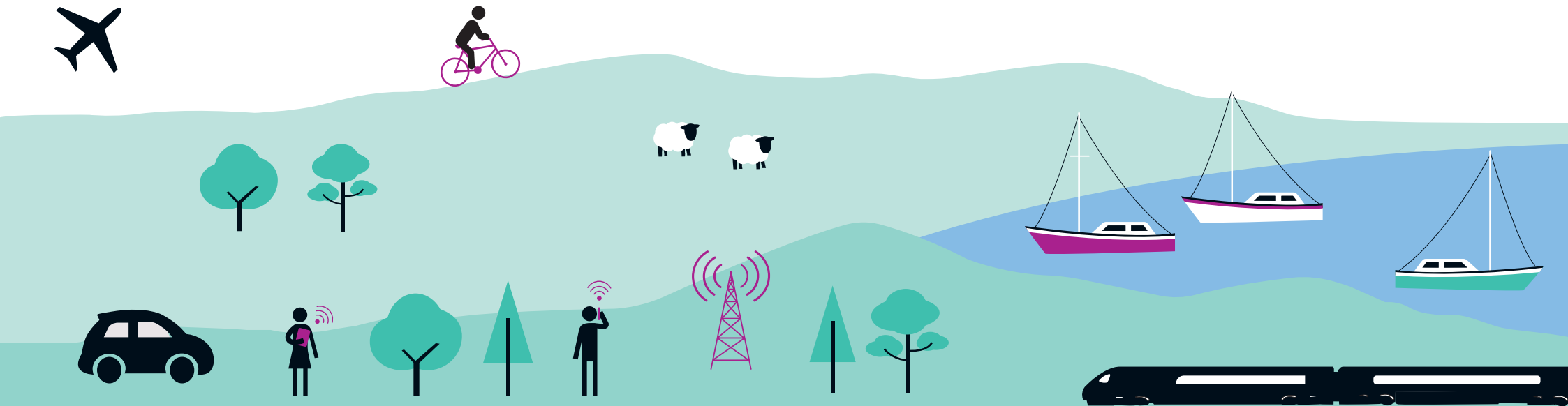




Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

October 2020



Introduction

We're continuing to make good progress towards signing off the full Borderlands Deal. Our latest newsletter brings you details of an exciting opportunity to apply to join our new Economic Forum and news from the rollout of the Digital Borderlands voucher scheme.

The delivery of the projects in the Deal will be more vital than ever in light of the Covid-19 emergency, supporting the recovery and future development of our economy across the Borderlands region. We already have some Deal projects in early delivery. As well as the rollout of the Digital Borderlands voucher scheme, work has started on the Alnwick Gardens project and on the development of our energy masterplan which will support investment in green energy projects across the region.

Looking ahead, the future investment from the Deal in our proposed place and destination projects will support recovery and growth, recognising the significant impact from Covid-19 on our hospitality and tourism sectors as well as in our town centres. We'll bring news of our other projects as they develop further in our next newsletter.

Contact us

If you'd like any more information on any of the topics in the newsletter, or on the Deal in general, please visit our website [**www.borderlandsgrowth.com**](http://www.borderlandsgrowth.com) or email us at [**info@borderlandsgrowth.com**](mailto:info@borderlandsgrowth.com)

If you've not already signed up to receive our regular newsletter direct, please sign up at [**www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Get-Involved**](http://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Get-Involved)

Borderlands Economic Forum recruitment - an exciting opportunity to get involved

We're setting up the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Economic Forum, a fantastic opportunity for individuals from the business community who are passionate about the place they live and work to contribute to the future of the Borderlands. It will be a central part of how we will deliver our Deal, putting the voice of businesses, third sector and regional strategic economic partners at the heart of our work. We are seeking to recruit ten leading local businesspeople from across the Borderlands region to join our new Economic Forum.

We see the role of the Economic Forum as being a proactive one in helping us to deliver the deal we have, anchoring our activities in the local and regional business community and looking for new opportunities for joint work. Members will champion the Deal when engaging with their own networks and will support the implementation of the Deal. While the projects and financial arrangements have already been agreed, this group will support Borderlands partners towards a shared ambition of achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth for the Borderlands. The Chair of the Economic Forum shall also serve as a member of the Partnership Board alongside the Borderlands local authority Leaders.

Applicants will have significant experience and a successful track record as an owner or senior executive of a business and need to either live or work in the Borderlands Partnership area (the local authority areas of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council). They will demonstrate the necessary strategic leadership and corporate governance skills to operate effectively at a regional economic level and have passion and commitment to work collaboratively in the best interests of the Borderlands and its economy.

The Borderlands Partnership is committed to equality of opportunity and would welcome applications from female business leaders and those with protected characteristics. The roles are likely to require a time commitment of 3-4 hours per quarter. Board appointments are for a threeyear term, with the option for re-appointment for a further three-year period.

For more information, please visit our website here [**www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Economic-Forum**](http://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Economic-Forum)

Applications, marked 'Board Confidential', can be emailed to [**info@borderlandsgrowth.com**](mailto:info@borderlandsgrowth.com)

The closing date for applications is Monday 2 November 2020.



Digital Borderlands - Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

What is the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme?

The Gigabit Voucher scheme offers business and residents in some of the hardest-to-reach places in the UK additional funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises when part of a group project via the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity programme. This scheme provides between £500 and £3,500 per small and medium-sized businesses (SME) and between £500 and £1,500 per resident to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections.

How does the Digital Borderlands Voucher Scheme complement the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme?

Digital Borderlands funding is a 'top up' to the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity Voucher Scheme. Subject to criteria, this voucher scheme has the potential to double the value of the voucher awarded by the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. The illustration below sets out how this works.

	 GIGABIT BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME		 Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal		Total Available Funding
Business	Up to £3500	+	Up to £3500	=	Up to £7000
Residential	Up to £1500	+	Up to £1500	=	Up to £3000

Who is eligible?

Rural premises in Cumbria and Northumberland experiencing speeds below 30 Megabits per second (Mbps) are eligible. This scheme is seeking to support properties in northern England to catch up with properties in Scotland which are covered by the Scottish Government Reach 100 scheme www.gov.scot/publications/reaching-100-superfast-broadband-march-2020-update/

I am interested in this scheme, what do I need to do next?

1. Talk to suppliers who are active in your area for the connection deal that is right for you.
2. Your chosen supplier will advise you on your eligibility and guide you through the process. There is no application process to complete, a registered supplier will offer the voucher as a discount towards the installation costs.
3. You must commit to a 12-month contract with your supplier for download speeds of at least 30Mbps through a gigabit-capable connection once services become available.

To find out more and access a list of suppliers who are active in your area, visit

www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Digital-Voucher-Scheme

Act now!

Funding is time limited and must be committed under the schemes before they close on 31st March 2021. Suppliers are becoming very busy as a result of interest; communities must have an agreed plan in place with their chosen supplier by this date in order to be considered.