

Borderlands Partnership Newsletter

March 2022



Introduction

The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal will be one year old on the 18th of March. Since signing the Deal with the Scottish and UK Governments, we have made significant progress in bringing the Deal to life.

This newsletter gives a feel for what we have achieved in this first year starting with a summary of **our year in numbers**:

Projects worth
£182m
total investment
approved



38%
of total Deal
funding
approved



£133.1m
Deal funding approved

3

Programme Boards
appointed covering
Energy, Place and Digital



£50m for University
of Cumbria Citadels Campus

£50m

agreed for the Borderlands
Place Programme



3,283

properties
better connected
through Digital
Voucher Scheme



£19.8m

Deal funding
paid to projects
in delivery



Project approvals

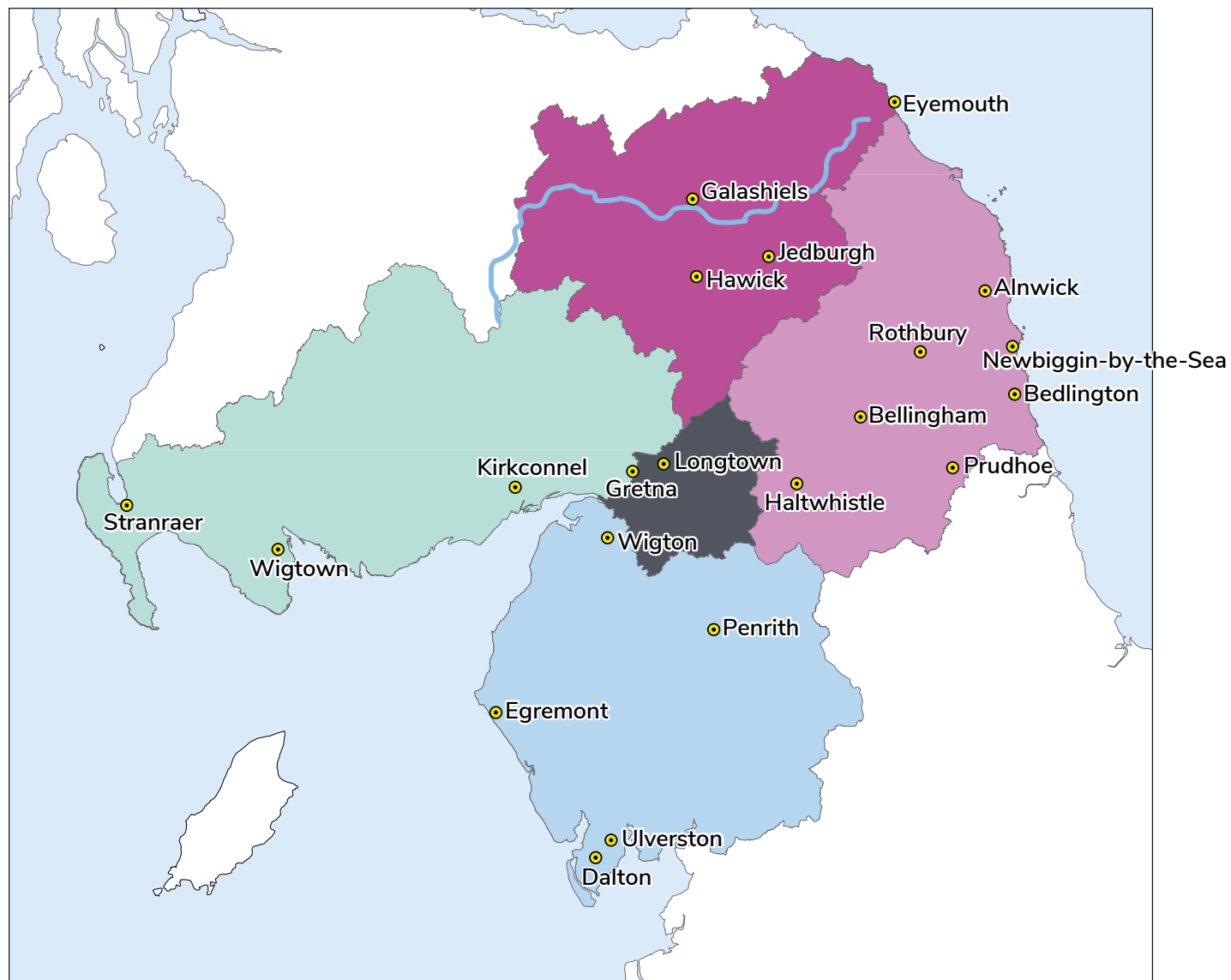
Place Programme

Our Place Programme will support the development and renewal of towns across the Borderlands region and is core to our Improving Places theme. It brings up to £50m of funding, £20m from the Scottish Government and £30m from the UK Government, in a new approach focused on smaller places across the Borderlands.

The Programme is a central part of the Deal and will support the towns' growth through Place and Town Investment Plans. Developed at local level, each Place Plan will set out the community's vision for the future of their area and enable them to apply for investment through a range of matched funding beyond the Deal's investment. The Programme will also bring direct investment through the Town Investment Plans.

The Place Programme is a ten-year investment with the first Place Plans due to come through in 2022. The programme will invest in places to help boost economic activity across the region and recognises the importance of our smaller rural market and coastal towns to the local economy. We have established a Place Programme Board, who will manage the Programme, support the development of the plans, and approve them for submission to the Borderlands Partnership Board for sign off. The Board is chaired by Professor Mark Shucksmith who has many years' experience in development across rural communities in England and Scotland.

Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Place Programme Towns



Carlisle Citadels



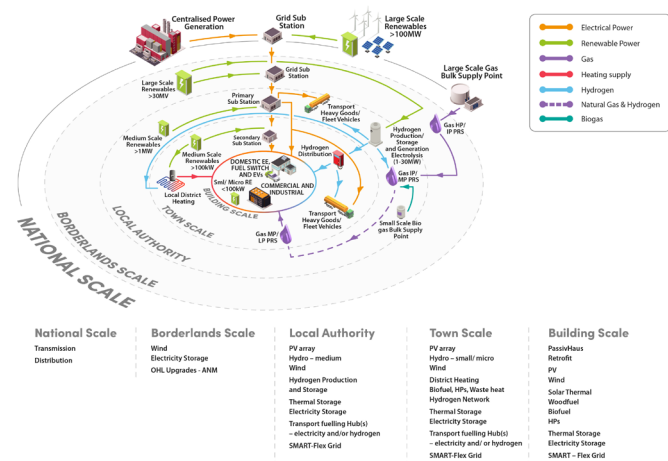
£50 million from the Deal is being invested to develop a new city centre campus for the University of Cumbria. As a new home for the University of Cumbria, this will boost the vibrancy and vitality of Carlisle city centre and improve skills provision across the Borderlands, increasing access and resulting in productivity increases in the local economy.

The new campus project has been developed in partnership by Cumbria County Council, Carlisle City Council, and the University of Cumbria, working with Cumbria LEP as a key partner. It will revitalise the prominent Citadels buildings and adjacent site and be transformative to the character and status of Carlisle and the wider Borderlands area. The award of the funding is a significant milestone and allows the University to take the next steps towards delivery of the ambitious plans for the Citadels.

Based on the site of the historic Citadels buildings, the new campus will provide publicly accessible spaces that combine local amenities, cultural and commercial uses, as well as addressing inequalities by creating highly accessible opportunities for higher education and training. The project team is now working on detailed designs for the development and moving towards the next step of submitting the planning application.

Projects in delivery

Over £30m of advanced funding was released prior to the Deal signing for five approved projects. These have continued to deliver strong progress during 2021/22.



The **Borderlands Energy Masterplan** will soon be completed. It will help the region to identify and then bring forward priority investments that will support the transition to a low carbon economy and contribute to achieving the UK and Scottish Government targets for net zero by 2050/2045. Once the Masterplan is published, Phase 2 of the work will develop much more detailed Local Energy Investment Plans. They will provide a focus for investment through the Deal to support communities to achieve the move to Net Zero and help them benefit from the economic opportunities which come from that investment.



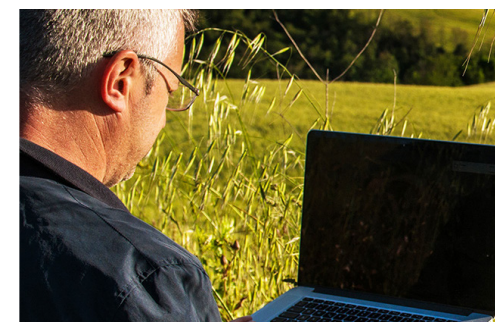
Lilidorei at The Alnwick Gardens, the biggest play structure in the world, is due to open to visitors in 2023.



Carlisle Station Gateway project is progressing well with site surveys, highway modelling and master plan review underway. This work will ensure that this project links with the Town Deal proposals for Carlisle, to achieve consistency of design.



The **Ad Gefrin Visitor Experience and Distillery in Wooler** is on track for opening in autumn 2022 .



The **Digital voucher top up scheme** in Cumbria and Northumberland was open from June 2020 to September 2021 and enabled more than 3,283 live connections to local businesses and communities across the two counties. It is part of the wider Digital Strategy which aims to achieve as close as possible to 100% coverage of digital and mobile infrastructure for businesses and residents. This will include addressing gaps in provision not met by the Shared Rural Network programme and the roll-out of full fibre from the R100 programme and the UK's F20 programme.

Projects in development

There has been good progress across all the Deal's projects in development, as they move through the different stages to full business cases and approval for funding. Here is a selection of news from the projects.



The **Mountain Bike Project** is being delivered by South of Scotland Enterprise with support from partners Edinburgh Napier University and Scottish Borders Council. It's part of the theme of supporting business, innovation and skills for our region and will deliver the world's first Mountain Bike Innovation Centre as well as a Bike Park and Trail Lab near Innerleithen.

The project recently confirmed the terms for the purchase of Caerlee Mill as a home for the Innovation Centre. The project team met the UK Government Minister for Scotland Iain Stewart in February at the site to show him around and meet the team.



The Scottish Government has granted permission for feasibility work on the Borders Railway Extension from Tweedbank to Carlisle to be initiated following the recent publication of a strategy document outlining key projects for Scotland over a 20-year period. This follows the publication of the Borders Railway Prospectus in October 2021 by the Borderlands Partnership. The Prospectus has informed discussions between the UK and Scottish Governments and has resulted in the formation of a reference group for the project which will help provide direction and move the project forward.

The view of the Borderlands Partnership is that the railway extension would result in positive transformational change in our region and help to address a variety of regional connectivity issues, whilst also having the potential to provide solutions at a UK level for enhancing cross border capacity, resilience and contributing to the race to net zero.



Projects in the Destination Borderlands theme are making good progress through the business case development process, including the See More Lake District cycling project, Destination Tweed walking route and the Hadrian's Wall project.

The Hadrian's Wall project is now developing outline business cases to take forward relevant elements of the Hadrian's Wall 10-Year Investment Plan. Destination Tweed will create a 113-mile long walking and cycling trail along the River Tweed between Moffat and Berwick-upon-Tweed and it is hoped that the project will be approved and work can begin later this this year.

Benefits Realisation Plan

As a Partnership and Deal it is important that we are open about what we are aiming to achieve and how we are performing. Alongside the documents signed off during the agreement of the Deal we have developed and published our Benefits Realisation Plan. This sets out how we will monitor and respond to performance of projects in delivery and evaluate the long-term impact of the projects and programmes to understand if the Deal and the individual elements of the Deal achieved what we had intended. It also sets out how we will report and communicate how we are doing. In this first version we set out our baseline to measure performance against and our processes. We will update the Benefits Realisation Plan each year with an updated picture of our economy.

The full Plan is available on our website with a summary to the right.

What are we trying to do?

We set out our objectives in the Deal:



Narrowing the productivity gap



Increasing the working age population



Achieving inclusive growth

What are we doing to achieve our objectives?

We are funding a package of projects and programmes based on key themes which will collectively deliver our outputs, outcomes and impacts:



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

How will we make sure we achieve our outputs?

Projects & Programmes



We will monitor the performance of our projects and programmes on a monthly and quarterly basis to make sure they are delivering and spending to plan/to agreed milestones.



We will collect and monitor outputs for the projects on a quarterly basis to see that these match the business case.



Where progress is not on track we will discuss options with the project and report it accordingly.

Deal Level

- At a Deal level these will be based on the original objectives and total outputs.

How will we know we have achieved our outcomes and impacts?



At a project and a Deal-level we will undertake evaluations to check that the outcomes and impacts that were set out in the business case are met and any additional impacts are included.



We will undertake process reviews to make sure how we are working is working as well as it should.



These will inform revisions to future proposals through learning of what works and what doesn't.

What we will do with this information?



We will publish the findings of our reports



We will use this information to help shape future funding programmes



We will share any lessons learned with other projects and programmes within the Deal and wider



We will publish our performance on a regular basis

How will we keep you updated on our performance?



Publish a quarterly performance report across the Deal



Update our Benefits Realisation Plan on an annual basis



Make the findings from evaluations available to share our learning



Publish an Annual Review

For more information on our Benefits Realisation Plan, visit www.borderlandsgrowth.com

Overseeing the Deal

As we have moved into the delivery phase of the Deal, we have introduced new and updated governance structures.

Our Partnership Board (comprising the five elected leaders of our partner Councils and Chair of the Economic Forum) has moved from shadow arrangements to full delivery with the quarterly meetings for both bodies available to view on a live stream through our website. The Partnership Board is the ultimate decision maker for the Partnership.

Our Economic Forum was established at the time of the Deal signing.

The Forum meets quarterly bringing together business representatives from across the Borderlands alongside our strategic regional economic partners to support Deal delivery and look for new areas of activity. At the first meeting Jack Stopforth was elected as Chair of the Forum for the first year and duly joined the Partnership Board. Other Forum members have joined the programme Boards within the Deal.

We have also established Boards for the Digital, Energy and Place programmes with specialists and experts brought together to support and oversee the development and delivery of the Deal programmes.

Coming up

We will be formally reviewing the progress of the Deal with our government partners, part of the Annual Conversation process which all City and Region Deals undertake. This will include a formal review of our Deal and its progress and result in an annual report being published. The process should be complete by summer 2022 and will be published on our website.

The Partnership Board and Economic Forum continue to meet quarterly through this year. The papers and minutes for both groups are published on our website and all meetings can be viewed through a live video stream.

For more information about the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and the wider work of the Borderlands Partnership, please visit www.borderlandsgrowth.com

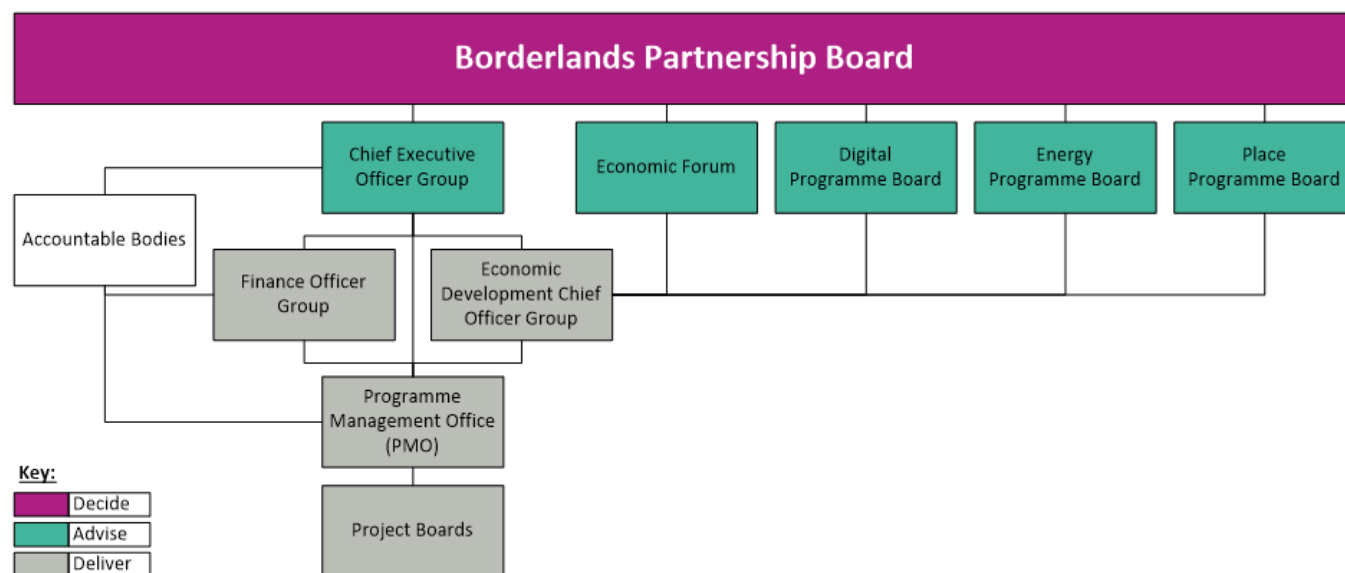


Image of Hadrian's Wall courtesy of Roger Clegg (pg6) and Citadels image courtesy of Stuart Walker Photography (pg 1)