



THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

REPORT OF MEETINGS

Borderlands Place Programme Board

22nd April 2022

THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY

Working together to put our sector first
Dumfries and Galloway's Third Sector Interface

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PERSONAL RECORD BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TSDG, NORMA AUSTIN HART. IT IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS. IT IS NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING.

Key points

1. The programme board heard a presentation from Steven Robson, planning officer from Northumberland Council, about how neighbourhood plans are developed in this local authority area.
2. These take place within the National Planning Policy Framework and the council's planning policy.
3. These neighbourhood plans usually take place at parish council level. Out of 46 parishes, 19 have created plans, with 24 designated but not yet developed and three almost completed.
4. Plans are developed at local level and are aligned with national and local policy. Before it can be adopted it has to be subject to a referendum; do you support the adoption of this plan or not? The majority view wins. So far all have been adopted. The referendum is run by the local authority along the lines of a by-election.
5. Some of these plans will be submitted to the Borderlands programme for funding.
6. There was discussion about how to apply programme level aims on the neighbourhood plans; this is for further discussion
7. SBC and DGC have a best practice planning group for place-planning which has learned from the experience in Northumberland.
8. I asked about the role of the third sector in the intermediate level of policy development. There are clearly community/TS drivers at grassroots level and there is TS representation on the programme board. It is not clear how TS input at the level in between. This was accepted as an important point and Janice Rose agreed to contact me outside the meeting to discuss how to put this on the programme board agenda.
9. Heritage featured again; how to identify actions in a place plan which enhance heritage in a unique and meaningful way.
10. There was a presentation about the various forms of guidance that are available on place planning.
11. Guidance points towards some common areas that all plans must address:
 - Inclusive growth
 - Community Wealth Building (CWB)
 - Sustainable growth
 - Carbon management
 - Benefits realisation
12. Heritage will probably be added.

13. Each plan should cover how has the plan taken consideration about equalities outcomes; plan is built on data evidence; how the plan will contribute to CWB.
14. In Scotland the plan should address the guidance on growth deals.
15. Plans should be outcomes based and demonstrate how they have engaged and consulted with local communities. They should show how they create opportunities for those furthest from the labour market.
16. There is a template for a place plan which can be used along with examples of best practice.
17. The final item covered the recent announcement about the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and the levelling up agenda.
18. From UK government the intention is to improve economic prosperity across the UK. The areas cover housing, pride in place, transport, living standards, digital connectivity, heritage etc. The aim is to improve people's satisfaction with where they live. Lots of chiming with the Borderlands agenda.
19. The levelling up fund round 2 is a capital fund, a competition for Local Authorities (10% match funding required) deadline is 6 July. Bids must show stakeholder engagement but are led by LAs. Quality bids will be required. Any projects must be spent over three years which is a challenge for capital projects.
20. SPF is the 'successor' to EU structural funds. There is a resonance with ERDF and ESF. Missing is rural development specifically. The UK government has confirmed £2.6bn over three years. 80:20 split between revenue and capital. The Place Programme is one area of Borderlands where we might wish to explore to support the delivery of the place plans.
21. First investment plans are to be submitted between 1 June and 1 August and approved by UK government in October. Eligible costs for investment plans can be backdated to 1 April.
22. D&G is allocated £6.775m over three years. I pointed out that this is not near the amount that D&G has had in EU funds however the direction to use TS in the development of the plans is important and welcome.
23. D&G and SB were asked when they would be presenting their place plans; Chris Travis said Kirkcubright will be first, likely to be in October.
24. SBC has developed a month-by-month plan over the next twelve months by consultants; all four town plans will be presented in 12 months' time (Hawick Jedburgh, Galashiels and one other).

