



BORDERLANDS PLACE PROGRAMME BOARD

Notes of the meeting held on Friday 17 December 2021

Board members attending:

Michael Orde (Borderlands Economic Forum), Kimberley Daly, David Cowan (both Scottish Government), Alex Jarvis, Akwasi Mensai (both Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities), Craig Birrell (Scotland Office), Tiffany Hunt (Cumbria LEP), Maria Antoniou (North of Tyne Combined Authority), Bryan McGrath (South of Scotland Enterprise Partnership), Mike Collins (Historic England), George Findlater, Heather McNaughton (both Historic Environment Scotland), Rob Britain (social housing representative for England), Julia Mulloy, (social housing representative for Scotland), Andy Dean (voluntary and community representative for England), Norma Austin Hart (Voluntary and community representative for Scotland), and Mark Shucksmith (social inclusion representative)

Apologies from Board members:

Rob Hamilton, North of Tyne Combined Authority

Guest Presenters:

Eric Dawson and Graham Robinson (both Scottish Government)

Advisers:

Zoe Sutton (Carlisle City Council), Alison Hatcher, Michael Barry (both Cumbria County Council), Chris Travis, Donna Mounce (both Dumfries and Galloway Council), Janice Rose, Tony Kirsop (both Northumberland County Council), Douglas Scott, Stuart Kinross (both Scottish Borders Council), and James Davies (Borderlands Programme Management Office)

Observers:

Shelley Bell, Nichola Hill, Lesley Annan, Shona McCoy (all Dumfries and Galloway Council), Charles Johnston, Charlie Wright, and Sharon Renwick (all Scottish Borders Council)

1. Confirmation of Chair Appointment

Janice Rose advised that the Borderlands Partnership Board had, at its meeting on 10 December, endorsed the appointment of Mark Shucksmith as Chair of the Programme Board.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced those participating on the call, explaining that additional officers from the local authorities in Scotland were attending for the NPF4 presentation.

3. Scotland's Fourth National Planning Framework and its alignment with the Borderlands Place Programme

Eric Dawson and Graham Robinson, from the Planning and Improvement team within the Scottish Government, went through the attached presentation.

The following points were raised as part of the subsequent discussion:

- The key transport connections linking across the England-Scotland Border – including the extension of the Borders Railway from Tweedbank to Carlisle – are recognised within the indicative South of Scotland regional spatial strategy.
- The regulations associated with the preparation of the Local Place Plans will come into force from 22 January 2022. In tandem, the Scottish Government will launch a dedicated website that will provide access to a range of resources, case studies, information and a toolbox to support place-based working. Consideration will be given to running webinars for interested stakeholders.
- The Place-based tool that will be available from this website is intended to provide a tool that makes the link between the national and local planning agendas.
- There is scope for current plans to be recognised as the Local Place Plan, provided they have been prepared on a community-led basis consistent with the regulations.
- The Local Place Plan has to have regard to the Locality Plan where one is in place, so there is a direct link to community planning.
- The Place Plans are intended to advocate the principle of the 20-minute neighbourhood whereby residents can access everything they need within 20-minutes' walk of their home. In more rural areas, it is recognised that this 20-minute envelope may need to be extended to include public transport travel times.

4. The emerging Place Plan for Dalton in Cumbria (see attached)

Please note that the purpose of this agenda item is to share with you the work undertaken thus far in preparing the Dalton Place Plan. Our aim is to showcase the intended approach via a worked example and to seek broad assurance as to the Plan's fit with the Section 1 of the Assessment Framework set out in the attached Place Plan guidance. Further work is still required to define the list of potential projects that might subsequently secure Borderland's funding. As such, further material will be presented to the Programme Board prior to any formal consideration of the Plan by the Borderlands Partnership Board.

Alison Hatcher and Michael Barry, from Cumbria County Council, went through the attached presentation.

The following points were raised as part of the subsequent discussion:

- The Plan sets out a good critique of the challenges and opportunities for the town and is presented in a broadly understandable format. However, it is equally quite traditional in its layout and as such it is what the two Governments are expecting. Acknowledged that a balance has to be struck between showcasing community aspirations and evidencing the need/demand for the interventions targeted at meeting those aspirations. The two Governments expect more information on the Borderlands initiatives to be delivered and be assured that the project sponsors would have the capacity/capability to deliver those initiatives.
- General sense that the impact of climate change and net zero would have featured more prominently in the Plan's content. There may also be more scope to reference what it is like to live in the town centre and whether improvements are required to the housing conditions.
- Change within the policy context is almost a constant feature – with the latest development for Cumbria being the creation of two new unitary councils for local government. On this basis, does more thought need to be given to the “rolling” nature of such Plans – particularly as community engagement is an ongoing process.
- The town's boundary was defined through the application of NOMIS data consistent with the UK Government's Town Deal approach. Dalton is a town that sits between two larger centres in Barrow and Ulverston which inherently limits the scope of its hinterland – but it was accepted that for other towns, such as Penrith, the extent of the hinterland referenced in the Place Plan would be more extensive.
- The involvement of third sector and community intermediaries in the development of place plans can add tremendous value rather than relying on the local authority networks solely. The added value can assure the plan as well as give access to complementary sources of funding, best practice and alternative ideas.

Mark, thanked on behalf of the Programme Board, those associated with the preparation for the Dalton Place Plan in providing the first example to form part of the Borderlands Place Programme.

5. Monitoring the collective impact of the Place Programme

James Davies from the Borderlands PMO introduced the proposed approach to the development of a unified monitoring and evaluation framework for the Programme whereby each Place Plan will be expected to report progress against a core set of

quantitative and qualitative data. Further details of this will be presented as a substantive item to the next Programme Board meeting.

6. Proposed calendar of meetings for 2022

It was agreed that the Programme Board would meet, via MS Teams call, in 2022 on 25 February, 22 April, 24 June, 23 September, 25 November.

7. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.