Bedlington
Borderlands Place Programme Board
Minutes
12th October 2022

18:00 – East Bedlington Community Centre

Attendees

Name	Representing
Anne Lawson (chair)	Northumberland County Council
Rebecca Wilczek	County Councillor
Adam Hogg	Town Council
Keith Grimes	Parish Council
Victoria Thompson (via Teams)	Town Council

Officers

Name	Representing
Peter Mawer	Northumberland County Council
Helyn Douglas	Northumberland County Council

Apologies

Name	Representing
Alex Wallace	County Councillor
David Fellows	TT Electronics
Dennis Fancett	SENRUG
Christine Taylor	County Councillor
Malcolm Robinson	County Councillor
Bill Cosby	Parish Council
Tracy Machnickie	BV Futuregen

Minutes (Action points in red)

Item	Details	Actions
1	**Declarations of Interest** Members were asked to confirm that their declarations of interest remain extant. No additional changes were required to the summary which is hosted on the town's webpage at: (https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Economy-Regeneration/Programmes/Borderlands-Place-Programme/Borderlands-Place-Programme.aspx) Declarations of Interest will be reviewed at every board meeting and the online version updated as changes occur.	AL/PM

2	**Place Plan development** PM presented an update demonstrating work undertaken on the Place Plan to date. The presentation focused upon: • Place Plan context (town history & local context/industry analysis) • Challenges • Identified investment themes The presentation would also be published on the town's webpage. It was explained that PM would continue to develop the Place Plan using the information gathered in the meeting and additional context from various sources. The board were asked to contribute any additional information that would be relevant to the place plan; in particular the context sections require local knowledge rather than being generic sourced articles. Suggested amendments to the contextual elements of the Place Plan are requested by 31 October 2022. AL explained that the process determining a call for projects had changed. The Place Plans will now be submitted to the programme board first **before** a call for projects is announced. The Town Investment Plan would follow, with further details of potential projects.	PM PM Board members
3	**Defining the range of interventions within investment themes** The board was asked to identify their investment priorities, within the already agreed investment themes, using the analysis, context and feedback gathered so far. Appendix I shows the feedback from the group work. The boards suggestions will be developed into investment priorities by officers for the consideration of the board. **Investment Theme 1 – Skills & Education** Improved links between schools Reducing the number of under 50s with no formal qualifications (circa 21%) Inclusivity – retraining adults and young people Tackling generational unemployment Improving access to opportunities for underprivileged of all ages Job creation Improving range of training opportunities (e.g. Media) Attracting local employers in fields locals aspire to work in	

3	inclusivity - ensuring there is re-training and up skilling for adults and the young, coupled with an increase in vocational subjects in Schools	
	Investment Theme 2 – Leisure Improve local economy Improve health and wellbeing of residents Pull factor to residents and visitors – increase retention of locals Remove barrier of time constraints – make leisure more locally accessible Reduce the demand on NHS though improved physical and mental health Improve community spirit Improve access and connectivity for all but particularly elderly groups Unique leisure attraction to increase footfall Youth clubs – engagement with/for young people Improve the health and wellbeing. Having a reason for anyone wishing to visit Bedlington offering something unique whether in shopping, leisure, wellbeing	
	Investment Theme 3 - Connectivity Make the train station accessible (electric shuttle bus, cycle routes to link) Parking issues (at station) Congestion at peak times Relaunch of lost bus services Cycle parking – electric chargers More cycle paths – eg linking new estates Improved disabled access Bedlington Railway station will be the hub with nearby settlements being spokes ensuring an improved access is available by whatever public transport is best suited.	
4	Consultation	

4	AL advised the board that four Showcase Events are to be held in Bedlington to allow the public to find out more about ongoing and proposed developments in the town, particularly the progress of the Borderlands Place Programme. The poster for the events will be emailed to all board members. Board members are asked to disseminate the details of the events as widely as possible. The events will allow officers to engage and consult with the public to inform the Place Plan going forward. This consultation will be further supported by Northumberland Communities Together (NCT) and Public Health (PH) engaging visitors in the Northumberland Place Standard (NPS)– an interactive tool which produces both quantitative and qualitative data on peoples' satisfaction with a wide variety of aspects of living in a town. As well as being present at all four showcase events, NCT and PH colleagues will be using the NPS with community organisations throughout Bedlington and the findings will be used to inform the Place Plan.	
5	**Next Steps** Officers will develop investment priorities for board members to approve based on the priorities identified in Item 3. Officers will continue to populate the Draft Place Plan for the town, focusing upon: • Strategy • Investment themes and priorities Work will continue on gathering context data for the town and completing the draft Place Plan	**PM** **PM**
6	**Any Other Business** No other business was declared	
7	**Next meeting** TBC	**PM**

Appendix I -

Connectivity

* Make train accessible (electric shuttle bus)
  station
  ↓
  cycle routes
  to link

* Parking issues

* Congestion at peak times

* Losing bus services

* No cycle parking or electrical charging

* Seize opportunities to install more
  cycle paths (new estates etc).

* Disabled people access.

Leisure

* Improve local economy.
* Improve health + wellbeing of people. ✱
* Pull factor to residents, visitors...
  (retention of locals).
* Time constraints - (back from work, drive
  + park at a leisure centre, back home late).
* Reduce the demand on NHS, etc.
  (improved health + mental health).
* Improve community spirit - elderly groups.
  + connectivity
* Unique leisure attraction to increase
  footfall.
* Youth clubs / engagement
  with + for YP.

Skills + Education

* Improved links between schools.

! 21-22% under 50's - no qualifications.

* Inclusivity - retraining adults + young people
   ↳ Generational unemployment.
      + underpriviledged of all generations
         (access to opportunities).

* Job creation → issue!

* Improving current resources (eg media centre
   in schools) to aid people's learning.
   Matching people's vision for employment
      + ensuring employment is available.
         such

Input by members unable to attend the meeting

AW –
Theme 1. Priority would be inclusivity - ensuring there is re-training and up skilling for adults and the young, coupled with an increase in vocational subjects in Schools.

Theme 2. Priorities would be to improve the health and wellbeing. Having a reason for anyone wishing to visit Bedlington offering something unique whether in shopping, leisure, wellbeing.

Theme 3. Bedlington Railway a station will be the hub with nearby settlements being spokes ensuring an improved access is available by whatever public transport is best suited.