



Northumberland County Council

Bedlington Borderlands Place Programme Board Minutes 26th July 2022 18:00 – East Bedlington Community Centre

Attendees

Board Members	Organisation
Anne Lawson (Chair)	NCC
Alex Wallace	County Councillor
Rebecca Wilczek	County Councillor
Malcolm Robinson	County Councillor
Christine Taylor	County Councillor
Bill Crosby	Parish Council
Keith Grimes	Parish Council
Adam Hogg	Town Council
Dennis Fancett	Senrug
David Fellows	TT Electronics
Michael Black	Advance
Officers	Role
Peter Mawer (Town Lead)	Community Regeneration Officer

Apologies

Name	Representing
Victoria Thompson	Town Council
Tracy Machnicki	BV FutureGen Foundation

Minutes (Action points in red)

Item	Details	Actions
1	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The summary of DOIs was presented by AL. 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)</p> <p>Declarations of Interest will be reviewed at every board meeting and the online version updated as changes occur.</p>	AL/PM
2	<p>Place Plan development</p> <p>PM presented an update demonstrating work undertaken on the Place Plan to date. The Place Plan would highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the data tells us (census & DWP information) • What the consultation told us • What we know as a board (previous meeting feedback) • Place Plan context (town history & local context/industry analysis) • Potential investment themes • Next steps <p>The presentation would also be published on the town’s webpage.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A number of amendments and points of clarification were suggested:</p> <p><u>Role of the Town</u> – Bullet 3 – make it clear that whilst the Giga Plant will be 4 miles from the ‘town centre’ of Bedlington it falls within the Sleekburn ward. Bullet 4 – Make it clear that the train station sits in Bedlington Station.</p> <p><u>Challenges</u> – Is there a breakdown within the ‘4 dimensions of deprivation’ to identify the most common? PM to investigate (post meeting note – PM has spoken to NCC’s Senior Economic Analyst and has been advised that this data can be broken down but as the data is from the 2011 Census it would be better to wait for the release of the 2021 census data).</p> <p>Is the average commuting distance a ‘challenge’? Officers agree that this data is informative rather than a challenge and will move it within the presentation.</p> <p><u>SWOT</u> – it was suggested that the relevance of some of the topics was not clear e.g. Politics under both threats and opportunities. AL explained that the table was recorded verbatim from the board’s contributions and would be expanded upon as the place plan progresses. Board members clarified that the particular example of ‘politics’ referred to the possibility that future changes in local or</p>	PM

	<p>national government policies may either provide opportunities for the town or threaten proposals.</p> <p><u>Current and Planned Investments</u> – MB suggested that rather than phase 3 of the Town Centre Redevelopment being delayed due to ‘a change in retail approach’ it was due to a change in retail demand.</p> <p>There was significant discussion around the implied discrepancy between 4.6% of the population receiving work related benefit payments and 27% of the population holding no formal qualifications (post meeting note – PM has spoken to NCC’s Senior Economic Analyst and been assured that the figures are correct, but it is important to be aware that the benefits data is current, and the qualifications data is from the 2011 Census and will be updated once the relevant 2021 census data is released. Nevertheless, neither figure is at great variance to statistical norms for the region. The percentage of residents of Northumberland holding no formal qualifications reported by the 2011 Census was 23.9% and nationally the figure was 22.5%)</p> <p>The board were asked to contribute any additional information that would be relevant to the place plan.</p> <p>AW and MB both offered a map of the Energy Park developments – note that documents will be public and commercially sensitive detail should not be included. A paragraph should be appended to the map to demonstrate the opportunities for commercial land development in the SE of the county.</p>	<p>All board members</p> <p>AW / MB</p>
3	<p>Identifying investment themes</p> <p>A number of potential themes emerged as a result of the consultation for the Borderlands Place Programme. These themes largely supported the feedback received from stakeholders at each stage.</p> <p>The investment themes will underpin the strategic objectives to guide future activity for developing and promoting the town and needed to reference the vision and strategic objectives.</p> <p>The board was asked to identify these themes using the analysis, context and feedback gathered so far.</p> <p>Group One (BC, KG, RW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth – education/training (leisure) • Town Centre offering (retail, leisure) • Leisure (library, hotel, trampoline park, cycling offer/hub) <p>Group Two (AW, DF, DF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure • Connectivity (access to employment) • Education/skills (vocational) • Family health & wellbeing (ASB) <p>Group Three (CT, MB, AH, MR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising education attainment (careers development officers) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure – youth provision/culture • Infrastructure – connectivity (town centre redevelopment) • Developing a leisure offer • Developing skills/upskilling and employment opportunities <p>Action PM and AL to draft broader detail around the 3 dominant themes proposed for the next meeting:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Leisure Skills and education Connectivity</p>	PM / AL
4	<p>Strategy – what will success look like?</p> <p>The board was then reminded that the Place Plan aimed to provide lasting benefits for all residents and supporting inclusive and sustainable growth for Bedlington’s community.</p> <p>The monitoring of the Place Plan would need to measure the impact of the activities and interventions brought forward against the baseline indicators for inclusive growth such as deprivation, workless households, access to services, qualifications and population/depopulation.</p> <p>A number of potential outcomes were displayed, and the board discussed potential methods of measuring success, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Businesses Created • Businesses Safeguarded • New and Improved Floorspace • Derelict and Vacant Land Remediated • Private Sector Leverage • Increased GVA • Additional Visitors Attracted • Increased Footfall • New Jobs Created and Supported • People into Training and Employment • Increased Health Outcomes <p>The board identified that outputs will need to be linked and enable the themes as the Place Plan develops.</p>	
5	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>Officers will continue to populate the Draft Place Plan for the town, focusing upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy • Investment themes <p>Work will continue on gathering context data for the town and an expression of interest form for projects will be developed for consideration at the next meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting – TBC</p>	PM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An update on Place Plan progress• Process for identifying projects	
6	Any Other Business No other business was declared	
7	Next meeting tbc	PM