

HALTWHISTLE PLACE PLAN 2024-2034



Foreword

Our Place Plan for Haltwhistle sets out our 10-year vision for the town's future as a vibrant, growing, connected and inclusive place to live, learn, work, and invest in. It has been shaped with input from the local community and partners and sets out our priorities to deliver investment and sustainable economic growth in the town.

The Place Plan for Haltwhistle sets out a future strategic direction for the town to ensure its relevance and growth well into the 21st century. The development of this Plan and its focus has been determined by drawing upon local stakeholders' experience, knowledge and data illustrating the current performance of the town, its assets, opportunities and also the direction it needs to move in if it is to keep ahead. It is this compelling evidence which will attract future funders to invest in Haltwhistle and bring about meaningful and sustained change. The Place Plan begins by defining a shared vision for Haltwhistle, which has a number of strategic objectives attached to ensure its successful delivery over the following ten years.

This plan has been developed following community engagement and consultation and the sharing of knowledge and resources of partners and stakeholders in the town. For Haltwhistle, a Place Partnership Group has been formed which is made up of representation from private, public and community sectors. Together they are working on behalf of the community to develop opportunities which can build on the town's distinctive and quality offer.

The Plan draws on various locally prepared action plans, the Haltwhistle Neighbourhood Plan and other Northumberland and regional strategies, as well as the overarching ambitions of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. Importantly, the Haltwhistle Place Plan has considered a great deal of statistical data including the outcome of the Haltwhistle Borderlands consultation and underpinning socio-economic data which sets out the current performance of the town. This data informed the selection of Haltwhistle as a place which would be suitable for Borderlands investment under the Place Programme and also informed the headline "Themes" which emerged from the community consultation as a way of articulating Haltwhistle's story.

We look forward to working with the community, businesses and stakeholders to implement the Haltwhistle Place Plan.

Ian Dommett

Chair of Haltwhistle
Place Partnership
Group

**The
vision for our town is:**

*By 2034 Haltwhistle will be a vibrant,
growing town recognised as a 'must see'
destination by visitors to the area.*

*The town will offer day and night-time activities for all
age groups and be attractive to residents and visitors.*

*New innovative businesses will be drawn to the town,
complementing and developing existing businesses.*



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Part 1: A Vision for change for Haltwhistle

Introduction

The Haltwhistle Place Plan sets out a 10-year vision for the town. It has been developed in association with the local community, stakeholders and businesses and focuses on three investment themes - Developing the tourist offer, Skills development and retention of young people and Business innovation and the diversification of the retail/hospitality offer. These themes will drive the 10-year plan forward, ensuring that Haltwhistle becomes a place of opportunity for residents, an attraction for visitors and a place of prosperity for businesses.

A series of project proposals have been identified in the process of developing this Place Plan with the aim of achieving the town's vision through a combination of funding sources including, but not limited to, the Borderlands inclusive Growth Deal.

It has been prepared in the context of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal which commits fresh investment into our region and is being jointly funded by the UK Government and Scottish Government from 2021 to 2031. The Deal is focused on four strategic themes of improving places; enabling infrastructure; encouraging green growth and supporting business, innovation and skills. The Growth Deal includes the Borderlands Place Programme which identified seven towns in Northumberland to benefit from investment, including Haltwhistle.

The Place Plan has been prepared collaboratively by the Haltwhistle Place Partnership Group working with the local community. Engagement with the community has been key to developing the plan, and it is the community's engagement which captures the spirit and energy of the town. It is vital to ensure that this enthusiasm and determination to

drive improvement over the coming ten years is represented fully and appropriately.

This plan details the desire for change within the local community, aligning with, and contributing to, the objectives of the Borderlands Growth Deal and its three BIG Challenges - inclusive growth; narrowing the productivity gap; and increasing the working age population.

We aim to demonstrate that the Plan represents a vision of Haltwhistle both in the next ten years and beyond. The community has engaged throughout the process, through stakeholder mapping sessions, business focus groups and public consultations. It is from these discussions that our ambitious vision has been created, building upon the engagement so far to create a meaningful change for the better.

The plan is framed around five key development themes, which taken together, offer a balanced approach to a 10-year vision for the future area.



River Tyne



- **Place-based:** Assessing what assets are already in place and what investment needs and solutions for each place on its own terms: what the place wants to be in 20 years, what it needs, and what it offers. This should make the most of what makes the place distinctive using local heritage and culture.
- **Collective:** Looking at the contribution of each part to the whole: the added value to the place, the area, the region, and the country.
- **Systemic:** Bringing public, private, third sector, and community assets together as part of a single, integrated system supporting communities, services and the economy.
- **Community-led:** Putting communities at the heart of decisions about the solutions that the Place Programme brings to the challenges facing their towns.

- **Prevention and future proofing:** Investment and action directed towards preventing further deterioration in our towns and town centres, and ensuring they are equipped to respond to future change, including recovery from the impact of Covid-19 and Climate Change.

With inclusive growth at its heart, the **Borderlands Place Programme**, which forms a key component of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, aims to create and sustain economically vibrant towns and town centres where people and communities see the direct benefits of economic growth. This means investing in infrastructure in a way that supports the sustainability and growth of local businesses, stimulates business investment, attracts visitors and spending, safeguards and creates secure, well-paid jobs for local people, and provides opportunities for people from all backgrounds to engage in employment, skills development and beneficial cultural and social activities.

The plan considers Haltwhistle's economic context, its unique needs and challenges as well as identifying the town's assets, strengths and opportunities to embrace and build on. With significant community and stakeholder input a new vision has been established to set out the aspirations and objectives to deliver sustainable growth in our town. Potential interventions and project ideas have also been developed to create a pipeline of investments that will meet this ambition for growth and may be eligible, once developed, for Borderlands, UK Shared Prosperity Funding and a wide number of other funding streams.

Funding through Borderlands will be limited to economic growth capital projects that contribute to addressing the three challenges of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal: growing the working age population; boosting productivity; and delivering inclusive economic growth.

Our vision for Haltwhistle

We have worked with stakeholders and the community to develop a vision incorporating the key ingredients that will combine to secure economic growth for Haltwhistle. It reflects the current role of the town in terms of its geographic and strategic context, the performance of the town centre, the socio-economic opportunities and challenges and the wider strategic developments that will generate jobs and investment.

By 2031 Haltwhistle will be a vibrant, growing town recognised as a 'must see' destination by visitors to the area.

The town will offer day and night-time activities for all age groups and be attractive to residents and visitors.

New innovative businesses will be drawn to the town, complementing and developing existing businesses.

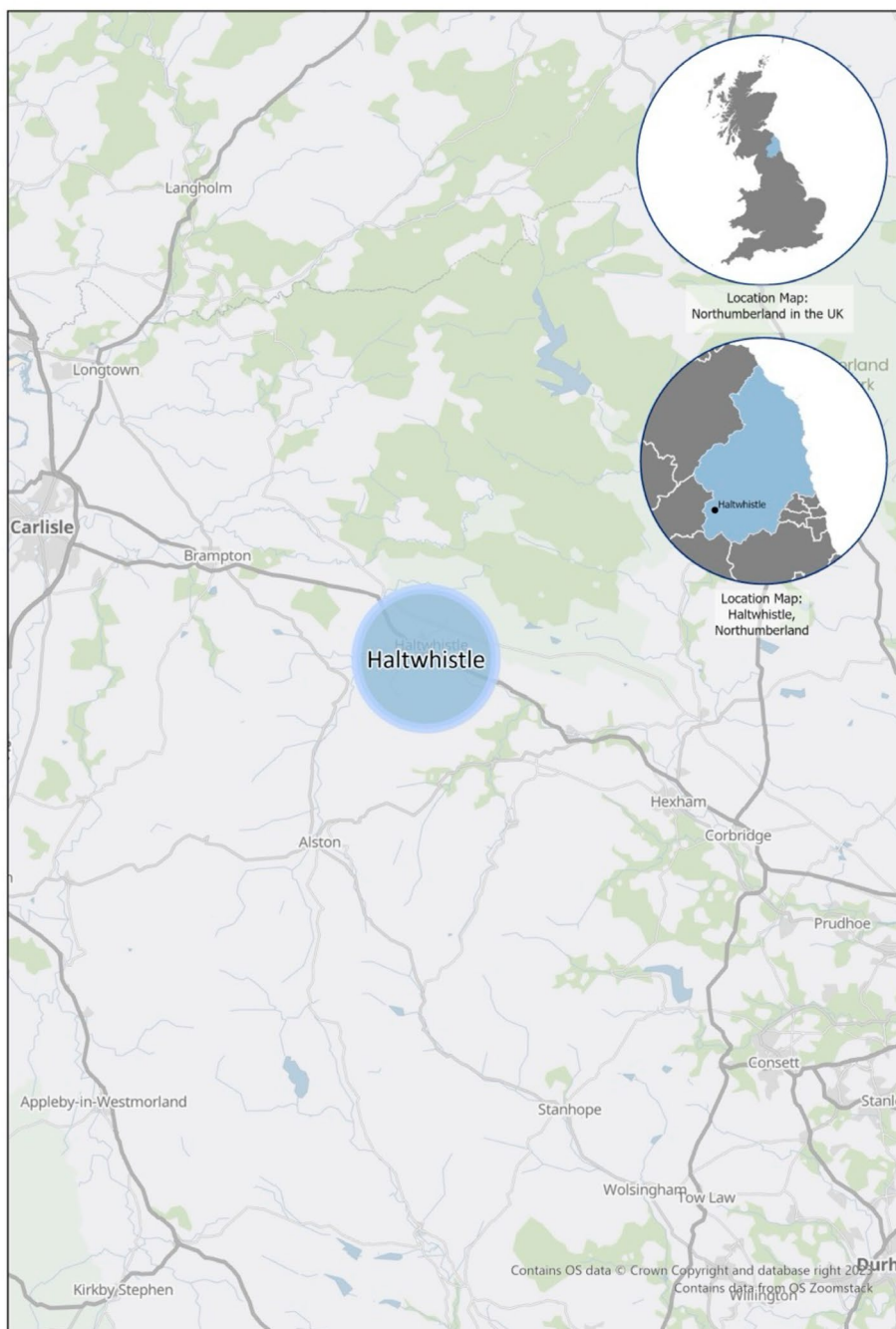


Strategic Objectives

Underpinning the Vision and the identified Themes, are the strategic objectives which for Haltwhistle have been identified as:

- **Vibrant town** - Maintain and increase the number of visitors spending money throughout the year.
- **Inclusive town** - Collaborate with the local community to imagine and then build a long-term future for the town.
- **Working town** - Retain and increase the working age population of the town.





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Introducing Haltwhistle

Location

Haltwhistle sits at the mid-point of the longest north-south meridian in Britain making it the geographical Centre of Britain. Nestling beside the River Tyne in South West Northumberland, Haltwhistle is the closest town to the stunning central section of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage site and the Northumberland National Park, both of which are only about 2 miles (3kms) away.

A Brief History of Haltwhistle

Haltwhistle was probably in existence in Roman times, as it is one of the closest approaches of the River South Tyne in its upland reaches to Hadrian's Wall. The old Roman road or 'Stanegate', passes just two miles to the north of the town and in 1836, workmen found a copper vessel containing 63 coins, 3 of them gold and 60 copper, on the top of Barcombe Hill in the parish of Haltwhistle. The gold coins were of Claudius Caesar, Nero and Vespasian. The find is known as the 'Thorngraston Hoard', and the empty arm-purse can still be seen in the museum at Chesters Fort.

The name Haltwhistle, earlier Hautwysel, is believed to be derived from its location, signifying either 'The high hill by two rivers' or 'The watch on high'. In either case this would have much to do with the oval-shaped mount called Castle Hill, which was fortified in ancient times by an earthworks and castle, parts of which remained until the mid-sixties.

Border reivers were raiders along the Anglo-Scottish border from the late 13th century to the beginning of the 17th century. Their ranks consisted of both Scottish and English families, and they raided the entire Border country without regard to their victims' nationality'. Their heyday was perhaps in the last hundred years of their existence, during the time of the Stewart Kings in Scotland and the Tudor dynasty in England.

The local people could only survive by defending themselves in fortified Manor houses, Pele Towers and Bastles against Scots or English raiders. Haltwhistle has the highest number of surviving Bastles (16th/17th Century defensible houses) in England. If you look closely at the tops and backs of the buildings around Haltwhistle, you will spot those that have been converted from Bastles.

In 1601, there was a raid on Haltwhistle by the Scottish Armstrongs, who carried away prisoners and goods. A counter raid was carried out reclaiming much of the stolen property and resulting in the death of a prominent Armstrong. In retaliation the Armstrongs again raided Haltwhistle and burned many of the properties. The Border ballad, 'The Fray of Haltwhistle' recounts the event which was followed by years of feuding between the Armstrongs and the Ridley's of Haltwhistle.

The legacy of the Border Reivers can also be seen in the local culture and people. The family names of the Reivers can be found all around the area - Armstrong, Ridley, Bell, Graham, and Robson, are just some of the names still with us today.

The development of the town in the 17th-19th centuries was based on its position on the main Newcastle to Carlisle road and on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway line. It was a market town for the exchange of local goods. In the 18th century two Quakers set up a baize manufactory and there was a weaving establishment. On the Haltwhistle Burn were fulling mills, dyeing and spinning mills, quarries, coal mining and lime burning kilns. The Directory of 1822 (Pigot) gives a whole range of craftsmen, shopkeepers and traders, 60 in number, including makers of clogs.

The 13th century Church of the Holy Cross stands at the back of the Market Square. This is the oldest building in Haltwhistle and one of only a few early 13th century churches still functioning as a working church in England. The oldest part of the Church is the chancel erected in the 12th century. Various features of interest include a 6th century Water Stoup and a tomb of the crusader Thomas de Blenkinsopp who died in 1388. Much of the Church was decorated by the Pre-Raphaelites, including excellent stained-glass windows by William Morris and Burne-Jones and the Chancel ceiling which was decorated by Burne-Jones.

Holy Cross Church



Haltwhistle today

Today, tourism dominates the economy, however, this remains a largely untapped resource for the town. Hadrian's Wall is within 2 miles and the Sill, one of the wall's most popular tourist destinations, attracting circa 140,000 visitors per year, is only 5 miles from Haltwhistle.

As a base to explore the magnificent surrounding area, Haltwhistle could not be better positioned. Within one hour's drive to the west are Carlisle, Gretna & South West Scotland. To the North are Kielder Water, Redesdale and the English & Scottish Borders. To the East are the historical attractions of the Northumbria Coast and the city of Newcastle. To the south are the wonderful open spaces of the Northern Pennines, an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The major employers in the town manufacture and supply chemicals, plastic and cleaning products.

The town hosts quirky pubs, tea shops and restaurants and the only open-air swimming pool in Northumberland.

Data shows footfall in the town centre to be less than half the National Small Towns average which is both a challenge and an opportunity to develop a more attractive retail and leisure offer for residents and visitors.

The train station is convenient for the high street and passenger figures for Tyne Valley railway stations show a strong post-Covid recovery.



Our community

Population

Haltwhistle's population reported in the 2021 Census was 3,639 which is a slight decline since the 2011 Census. 28% of residents were aged 65 and over. The 16-64 age group declined by 12% between 2011-2021.



Employment

The average commute to work is 25km, reflecting the rural nature of the town and the lack of local employment opportunities.

Overall claimant levels are consistent with the region (2.3%).

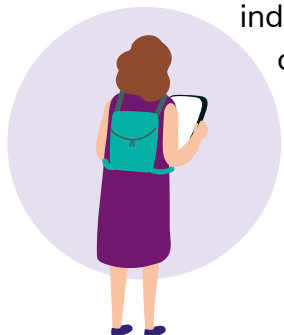
In the 2021 Census only 20% of Haltwhistle working age residents reported falling into the subsets 'Manager, Director and Senior Official' or 'Professional Occupation' compared to the county average of 30%.



Overall deprivation

In the Census, the dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are

indicators based on four selected household characteristics, education, employment, health and housing. In 2021 Haltwhistle had only 38% of households not deprived in any dimension, compared with the county average of almost half (48.5%).



Home ownership

The average house price of £158,000 is well below the county average of £214,000 over the same period. Whilst the median household income (£32,182) is below the county average of £34,573, this produces a comparatively attractive affordability ratio (4.55 year's median annual income = average house price). The median affordability ratio for England in 2021 was 9.05 (ONS House price to workplace-based earnings ratio – March 2022).



Education

The percentage of Haltwhistle residents holding no formal qualifications (22%) is slightly above the national and county averages (18%), and the percentage holding qualifications at Level 4 and above (22%) is significantly below the figure for England (34%).

Haltwhistle Primary Academy teaches young people aged 3-11 and was rated as 'Outstanding' in a February 2023 Ofsted inspection. 11-18-year-old students travel to Hayden Bridge High School, 9 miles from Haltwhistle, which was rated as 'Requires Improvement' in its most recent Ofsted inspection in 2021.



Assets, strengths and opportunities

Industry and employment

The town is well connected by road and rail and has development land and buildings available for businesses to create new jobs, and the affordability of housing in the area is attractive to prospective employees.

The largest employer in Haltwhistle is the plastics manufacturer Berry Global at the Plenmeller Works.

Visitor and tourist economy

Haltwhistle's location close to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, the Northumberland National Park and the North Pennines AONB, surrounded by outstanding countryside which provides stunning cycling and walking routes, offers the opportunity to attract many more visitors to the town than is currently the case.

The town could maximise this potential by catering more to the visitor economy whilst enhancing the living experience for residents also.

Celebrating the heritage of the town, showcasing the products made in the town and Northumberland, increasing the number, variety and quality of food and drink options and providing all-weather activities would all serve to increase visitor numbers, their 'dwell time' and spend.

Natural environment and public realm

The natural environment surrounding Haltwhistle compares with the best in the country and offers opportunities for the full range of outdoor activities. The quaint and historic market town maintains an attractive public realm and features 29 listed buildings between the train station and the eastern end of Main Street.

Community and leisure

Haltwhistle Swimming and Leisure Centre is a registered charity and does not receive public funding. It offers 3 outdoor heated pools, a sports hall, a fitness suite and an all-weather astro turf pitch.

The Community Partnership runs a Community Shop and a Community Bookshop staffed entirely by volunteers.



Main Street, Haltwhistle

Challenges and issues facing Haltwhistle

Low skill, low wage economy

The proportion of the working age population in the subsets 'Manager, Director and Senior Official' or 'Professional Occupation' is low and is reflected in the qualification levels of residents. A focus on increasing the tourist economy for the town must guard against a reliance on low skill/low paid jobs often associated with the tourist industry. Attracting new and developing industries to the town requiring higher level qualifications and offering higher wages will help balance the employment options for residents.



Economic exclusion and deprivation

Whilst median household income is broadly comparable to the county average, 62% of households fall under at least one of the characteristics of deprivation and the claimant level for 18- to 24-year-olds is relatively high.

Crime and anti-social behaviour

There is a public perception, reported in the public consultation, that there is a drugs and anti-social behaviour issue in the town. However, the overall crime rate in Haltwhistle in 2022 was 73 crimes per 1,000 people. This compares favourably to Northumberland's overall crime rate of 77 per 1,000 residents in 2022.

However, this is almost a 100% increase on the previous year's crime rate of 37 crimes per 1,000 people.

High levels of residents with no qualifications and low numbers attaining NVQ Level 4 (or equivalent) or higher

Census 2021 qualifications data shows the number of residents of Haltwhistle with no formal qualifications at 23% which is a cause for concern, as is the relatively low number of residents holding Level 4 or higher qualifications (22%).

The Old Estate Office, Main Street, Haltwhistle



Limited public transport

Almost 10% of respondents to the public consultation considered public transport to be the worst aspect of living in Haltwhistle. Negative comments focused on the lack of bus connections to the surrounding villages and the timetables to and from the major towns (Newcastle, Carlisle and Hexham) effecting commuting and access to leisure and cultural activities.

Untapped tourists spend potential

The town does not advertise itself very well and doesn't attract tourist trade to the degree that it could. There is little for tourists to do in the town and existing businesses, in general, do little to encourage footfall. Business opening hours on the high street are limited, with early closing two days per week being standard practice. The evening economy is very limited and there is no all-weather attraction or central visitor centre. This all results in low visitor numbers and a lower visitor spend than towns with similar catchment potential.

Overview of the public consultation

Residents are proud of their town and are actively engaged in caring about its future. Our online consultation in April 2022 received 344 responses and a further 100 young people engaged in group consultation facilitated by youth groups. A 12% response to consultation is strong and reflects the residents' passion for their hometown.

By far the biggest source of pride amongst residents is the community spirit that pervades the town. The town's location and its connectivity, the surrounding natural environment, access to walking & cycling routes, the provision of local facilities & amenities and local independent businesses and traders were also highly regarded as being the best things about Haltwhistle as a place to live, work, study, visit or run a business.

Conversely, the lack of retail options was considered amongst the 'worst things about Haltwhistle as a place to live, work, study, visit or run a business'.

Other less favourable elements to living in Haltwhistle reported through the consultation included a perceived growth in drug use and anti-social behaviour, limited eating out options, a general lack of investment in the town, a lack of employment opportunities and insufficient leisure opportunities for all age groups.

A separate consultation of young people conducted through the Young & Sweet youth club, Brownies and Rainbows discussed issues with 5–18-year-olds who identified the following as being what they most dislike about living in Haltwhistle:

- Dog poo
- Litter
- Swimming pool doesn't open for long enough
- Not much to do for kids

In response to the widening inequalities caused by COVID, a summit was held in Spring 2022, where key stakeholders and senior leaders from Northumberland County Council, the NHS, voluntary and private sector came together in a call to action. During June and July almost 400 stakeholders from the VCSE, public and private sector, town and parish councils and elected members, built on the summit by attending 12 locality events.

At the Haltwhistle locality event, key themes were:

- Improve transport options and moving around – within Haltwhistle itself access to bus and rail routes was felt to be adequate, however connectivity for outlying areas could be improved.
- Building on the strengths of communities to do more for themselves including supporting communities to develop skills and build capacity to take forward community centred approaches and to develop community enabler/community builder roles. Locally it was felt that this should have a focus on engaging young people as community assets.
- Funding to support VCSE and community resilience and expansion.
- Better understanding of our community assets and the potential to support transfer of assets to the community with sustainable transfer plans in place to support longevity.
- Improve training and skills development opportunities for all ages, locally it was felt that the centralisation of provision had impacted negatively upon the availability of offers and people's ability to access those that were available.
- Improve opportunities for children and young people including activity/youth service opportunities and improved opportunities for young peoples' voices to be heard.

Summary

Haltwhistle is steeped in untapped potential as a place to live, as a home for businesses and as a 'must see' destination for tourists.

Its natural environment is stunning and offers the whole raft of outdoor activities.

Housing is comparatively very affordable and there are brown site opportunities for new businesses.

There is a strong community spirit and the Town Council and Community Partnership strive to enhance the lived experience of residents in the town.

However, more could be done to encourage economic growth in Haltwhistle, particularly through tourism. Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland National Park and the North Pennines AONB attract hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area annually and Haltwhistle would benefit from offering services to such visitors.

Hadrian's Wall



Investment Themes

The investment themes establish a focus in terms of how we will aim to deliver the vision and objectives of the Place Plan. A strength of the Borderlands Place Plan process has been the ‘whole-town planning’ approach, which has informed our investment themes. The themes reflect the feedback given by community members and stakeholders throughout the process; from stakeholder mapping exercises to public consultation, we have developed the themes around the key topics identified by the people and businesses of Haltwhistle.

As described earlier in the vision section, three Themes have been identified and agreed which have informed the consideration of potential projects, interventions and investments. It is critical for this plan that these contribute to the achievement of the overall vision and work together with each other to form a coherent Plan which knits together and drives the change needed.

Investment Theme One - Developing the Tourist Offer

Aims to invest in retaining both spend and activity in the town to drive the regeneration of Haltwhistle’s town centre and improve the resident and visitor experience, bolstering both day and night-time activity and encouraging increased footfall and spend by:

- Providing an all-weather leisure opportunity
- Providing good quality experiences across the board (food, hospitality, service – aim for 5*)
- Increasing visitor spend
- Improving the tourist experience
- Making Haltwhistle the ‘Active Centre of Britain’
- Improving existing attractions
- Improving the appearance of Haltwhistle
- Improving indoor and outdoor play area provision



Investment Theme Two – Skills Development and Retention of Young People

Aims to retain and increase the working age population in Haltwhistle by creating and safeguarding employment in Haltwhistle. Work in partnership to provide residents, including young people, with the opportunity to be part of a skilled workforce with a sustainable future in the town and North East economy by:

- Providing good quality training and apprenticeship opportunities particularly in:
 - Hospitality
 - Retrofitting
 - Green Industries
 - Trade Skills
- Providing a youth skills centre delivering vocational and life skills.
- Raising aspirations.



Investment Theme Three - Business Innovation and Diversification of the Retail/Hospitality Offer

Aims to encourage high quality innovative businesses to locate in Haltwhistle providing residents with skilled, well-paid employment opportunities. Developing vacant sites in the town centre and surrounding industrial parks. Encouraging a more diverse and high-quality range of retail and hospitality options in the town for residents and visitors by:

- Bringing back into use vacant sites in the town
- Providing flexible workspace
- Introducing new industries into the town
- Creating jobs
- Improving the quantity, quality and variety of food and drink options.
- Improving the quantity, quality and variety of retail options
- Investing in flexible commercial space to encourage businesses back into all parts of the town and ensure that Haltwhistle is a compelling business environment.



Part 2: Development and implementation

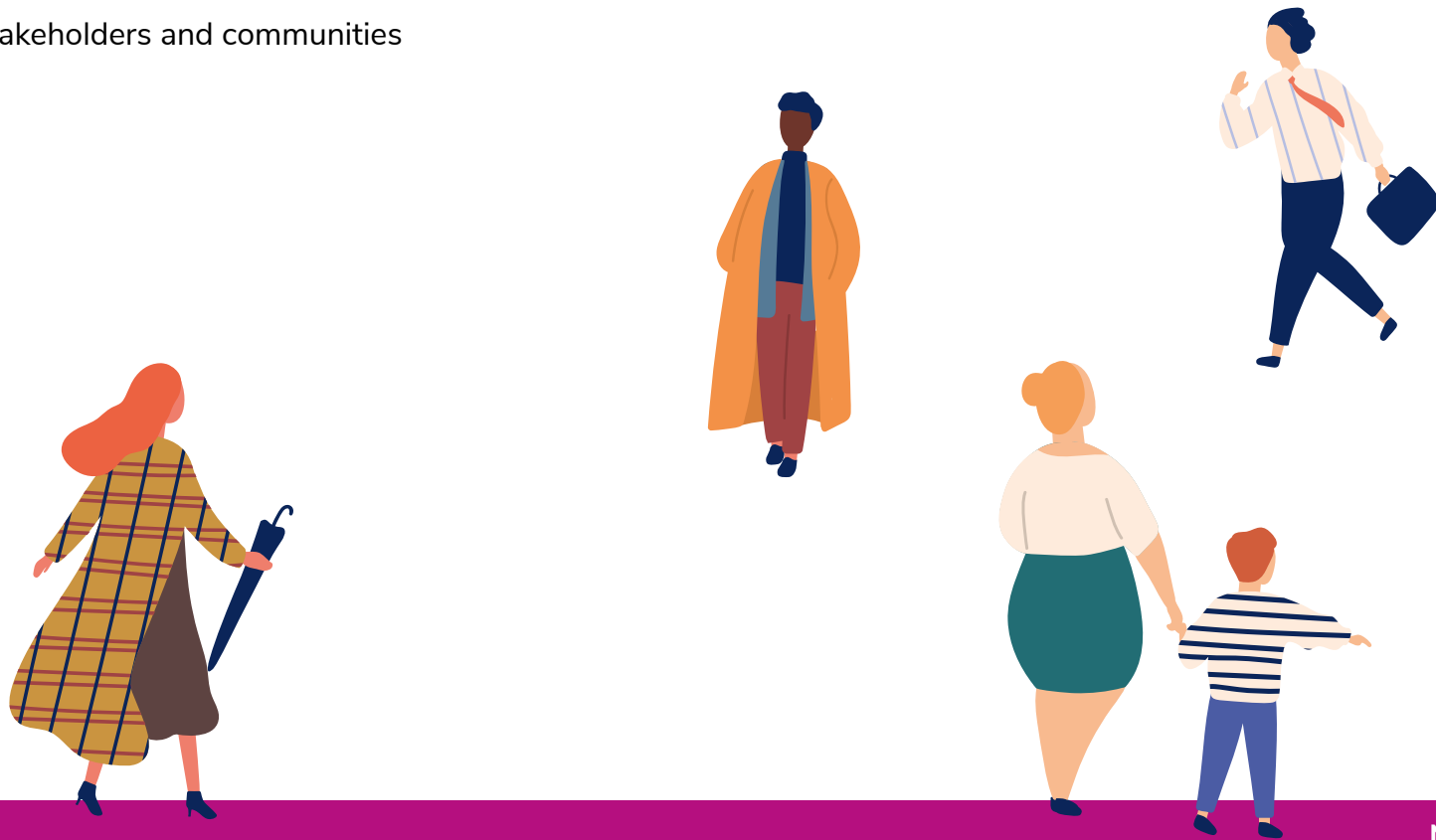
Development of the Place Plan

There are more than 100 towns across the Borderlands area with different and distinct characteristics. Haltwhistle's inclusion as one of Northumberland's seven towns on the Borderlands Place Programme was assessed using the Unified Borderlands Town Index, developed to facilitate the town prioritisation process. It was critical that the framework was:

- evidence based
- robust in its justification
- transparent for our stakeholders and communities

The index was based on a two-stage gateway process:

- A quantitative assessment of a generic range of published indicators that defined the relative “economic health” of the towns in scope.
- The progressive application of a range of qualitative factors that correlated to the broader aims of the Programme.



The local Place Partnership Group in Haltwhistle was created following a stakeholder mapping exercise with local councillors and consists of public, private and community sector representatives. The group is facilitated and managed by the County Council's Regeneration Service. The purpose of the group in the first instance is to support and advise on the development of this document for the town, working with local community stakeholders in Haltwhistle and providing a 'whole town approach'. Full terms of reference have been published on the town's webpage together with a summary of declarations of interest.

Place Partnership Group	Organisation
Cllr Ian Hutchinson	Northumberland County Council
Cllr Debbie Rogan-Mackie	Haltwhistle Town Council
Cllr Samantha Daglish	Haltwhistle Town Council
Cllr Alan Sharp	Haltwhistle Town Council
Stuart Wilkie	Killfrost
Julie Gibbon	Haltwhistle Partnership
John Scott	Hadrian's Wall Partnership
Stephen Leighton	Berry Global
John Taylor	Agma
Maxine Wilson	Haltwhistle Swimming and Leisure Centre
Sheila Cadge	Young & Sweet
Ian Dommett (Chair)	Haltwhistle Chamber of Trade



Interventions and investments

Central to the development of the Place Plan are the five core principles underpinning the design and delivery of the wider Place Programme:

- **Place-based:** Assessing investment needs and solutions for each place on its own terms: what the place wants to be in the future, what it needs, and what it offers.
- **Collective:** Looking at the contribution of each part to the whole: the added value to the place, the area, the region, and the country.
- **Systemic:** Bringing public, private, third sector, and community assets together as part of a single, integrated system supporting communities, services and the economy.
- **Community-led:** Putting communities at the heart of decisions about the solutions that the Place Programme brings to the challenges facing their towns and town centres.
- **Prevention and future proofing:** Investment and action directed towards preventing further deterioration in our towns and town centres.



Through use of consultation software and business focus groups, the community has been pivotal in shaping the Place Plan. These thoughts and ideas have been central to our strategic objectives and ensure that they align accordingly with all seven Borderlands Place Programme strategic objectives:

Borderlands Place Programme Strategic Investment Objectives	Haltwhistle Place Plan Strategic Objectives
SO1: Empower local communities to imagine and then build a long-term future for the towns they live in.	Inclusive Town - Collaborate with the local community to imagine and then build a long-term future for the town.
SO2: Safeguard existing businesses and attract new businesses to our towns and town centres.	Vibrant Town - Maintain and increase the number of visitors spending money throughout the year. Working Town - Retain and increase the working age population of the town.
SO3: Maintain and increase the number of visitors spending money in our towns and town centres.	Vibrant Town - Maintain and increase the number of visitors spending money throughout the year. Inclusive Town - Collaborate with the local community to imagine and then build a long-term future for the town.
SO4: Safeguard existing employment and deliver new jobs and opportunities for economic and social participation.	Inclusive Town - Collaborate with the local community to imagine and then build a long-term future for the town. Working Town - Retain and increase the working age population of the town.
SO5: Maintain and increase the number of people living in our towns and town centres.	Vibrant Town - Maintain and increase the number of visitors spending money throughout the year. Inclusive Town - Collaborate with the local community to imagine and then build a long-term future for the town.
SO6: Retain and increase the working age population in towns.	Inclusive Town - Collaborate with the local community to imagine and then build a long-term future for the town. Working Town - Retain and increase the working age population of the town.
SO7: Maintain and raise the quality of the physical environment in our towns and town centres.	Vibrant Town - Maintain and increase the number of visitors spending money throughout the year.

The Place Plan's Key Objectives

Our Place Plan delivers on the Government's economic growth agenda, aimed at tackling geographical disparities across the UK. The Haltwhistle Place Partnership Group agreed to prioritise three Borderlands Place Programme strategic objectives based upon their experience of the town and feedback from residents, visitors and businesses.

- Vibrant Town
- Inclusive Town
- Working Town

These three strategic objectives, as applied to Haltwhistle, and the wider Borderlands Place Programme strategic objectives created the matrix and criteria required to appraise the expressions of interest received from project sponsors. A range of nine critical success factors (CSFs) were used to assess the EOIs.

- Priority investment themes
- Opportunities and challenges facing the town
- National and regional strategic / funding objectives
- Priorities of local people, communities, businesses
- Additionality to the town's major strategic investments
- Need for funding and evidence of market failure
- New and innovative approaches
- Deliverability
- Value for money



The Place Plan will help Haltwhistle to close the prosperity gap with other parts of the UK by creating new, skilled jobs, boosting household incomes, improving public transport connectivity and boosting pride in place, including improved satisfaction with the town centre.

Clean growth is at the heart of our plans, in line with Government net zero carbon reduction goals identified in the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, the Energy White Paper, and Sixth Carbon Budget. These plans highlight significant clean energy investment in the coming years (including wind, carbon capture, and hydrogen), quadrupling the UK's offshore wind capacity by 2030, bringing jobs and growth to ports and coastal towns. Our Place Plan demonstrates how Haltwhistle will play a significant role in the clean growth agenda, attracting new jobs and investment, and supporting the UK's net zero carbon goals.

Covid-19 economic recovery is at the forefront of our investment planning. We will deliver new jobs and education places, creating new opportunities to stimulate economic recovery.

Complementary initiatives - Economic development

The following table illustrates several key investments already underway in Haltwhistle which are linked both directly and indirectly to the proposals received under the core investment themes. It is intended that the projects below will complement and align with the proposals received for both investment through the Place Programme and those developed with partner organisations and other funders.

Complementary Projects – being developed and in delivery:

Project and Lead Sponsor	Description	How it supports the Place Plan Investment Objectives
Housing development Private sector	Planning permission has been granted for 194 houses to be built on site to the west of Park Road.	The creation of jobs through Investment Theme 3 will increase the working age population and suitable housing will be required.
Community Fund 3rd sector	The Haltwhistle Partnership has set up a Community Shops Fund using the surplus income from their two community shops. The first year of trading has seen £40,000 allocated to the Fund which will be distributed to local projects with 2 rounds of funding each year.	The fund can support projects across the three Investment Themes.
Ebike Hub 3rd sector	The Haltwhistle Partnership is supporting an innovative Ebike hub on their land by the Water Tower at Haltwhistle Station. The project is being run by the Rural Design Centre with support from the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (TVCRP) and funded by a number of partners.	Supports carbon reduction goals which is an underlying theme across the place plan Supports the development of the tourist offer – Investment Theme One.
Community Hub Public sector	NCC Communities Together team have set up a Community Hub on the first floor of the Mechanics' Institute which aims to bring together all third sector organisations in the area and to provide community activities as defined by residents.	Provides a location for skills and education provision.

Project and Lead Sponsor	Description	How it supports the Place Plan Investment Objectives
Flexible Office Space 3rd sector	Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership has led a £500K project to convert disused station buildings into sustainable, affordable and flexible office space which are due to be let to tenants in Autumn 2024.	Attracts new businesses to the town.
Renewables Working Group 3rd sector	The Community Partnership supported by Sustainable Haltwhistle and Community Action Northumberland (CAN) continue to explore opportunities for Community Energy projects to support self-sustainability and carbon reduction. Several feasibility studies have been successfully funded over several years including heating the leisure centre from the mine water beneath it. Unfortunately, despite some of these schemes being commercially viable, none have come to fruition, however the group continue to seek opportunities.	Supports carbon reduction goals which is an underlying theme across the place plan.
Hadrian's Wall Visitor Exploration Project Public Sector	New cycleways and a variety of Waymarkers in towns, villages and the hinterland of Hadrian's Wall for visitor orientation purposes.	Increased visitor footfall in Haltwhistle.

Building our future

As described earlier in the Vision section, three key themes have been identified and agreed locally which have informed the consideration of potential projects, interventions and investments. As a result, the Place Plan will focus investment on where it is really needed in Haltwhistle, drawing upon on all of the feedback received at public consultation, throughout the showcase events and recognising the importance of the whole stakeholder engagement process.



Proposal submission process

Proposals were invited through an Expression of Interest process to identify potential projects that would help Haltwhistle achieve its vision, objectives and investment themes outlined within this Place Plan. It was emphasised that a small number of larger capital projects which would have significant impact on the town were being sought for Borderlands Place Programme funding. The project value was advised to be between £300K and £1.5m.

Additionally, projects which were considered to have potential to have a large impact and meet the vision and objectives of the Place Plan, but which were not eligible for Borderlands funding, would be included in the town's place plan and developed separately to the Place Programme process. Whilst there was no minimum funding requirement on such projects, they needed to demonstrate significant impact.

Projects were assessed against the criteria on the Project Proposal Proforma, and eligible projects then formed a 'long-list' to be considered by the Haltwhistle Place Partnership Group for inclusion in the Haltwhistle Borderlands Place Plan.

The completed Place Plan would then be assessed by the accountable body before being submitted to the Borderlands Place Programme Board.

Project sponsors were reminded that this was a two-stage application process; If the Haltwhistle Place Plan was endorsed at this first stage by the Borderlands Place Programme Board, officers would work with the sponsor to develop the project further to enable the project proposal to be considered for inclusion in the Borderlands Town Investment Plan (BTIP) for the town. The final BTIP and individual project applications will form the basis of the final application to the Borderlands Programme Board and forms a second stage in the application process. The timeline for Haltwhistle's EOI process is detailed below.

This Place Plan includes a pipeline of potential schemes to support its delivery and also a prioritised list of potential schemes which, at this stage, may be eligible for Borderlands funding.

Haltwhistle's EOI timeline



Proposal summary

The following section details the nine proposals received throughout the call-out process for expressions of interest to the Borderlands Place Plan. Several of the ideas presented do not fit strategically with the aims of the Borderlands Place programme however may complement key Borderlands capital investments. On that basis, alternative support and sources of funding will be sought.

This Place Plan has taken a whole of town approach to identifying the key priorities which are important to the creation of a thriving community over the next 10 years – these come in the form of the infrastructure, assets, economic activity, community services and connections needed to sustain and nourish the population, support their aspirations and ensure a cohesive community with a strong sense of civic pride and community spirit. The table below sets out a monitoring framework for the Place Plan, identifying under each theme and strategic objective, the key activities which will be delivered (outputs) to initiate the positive changes and developments (outcomes) we want to bring about in the community, together with some of the key metrics which will be used to evidence the impact of the Plan. These outputs and outcomes are consistent with those detailed within the Borderlands Place Plan Guidance.

However, the guidance recognises that this is not an exhaustive list, and that additional project specific outputs and outcomes may be agreed as appropriate. In addition, as some of the priority projects identified within the Place Plan will not be funded through the Borderlands Place Programme, we have included additional measures where appropriate to capture the potential contribution of projects of this nature. All of these are defined at Place Plan level – however, as part of the management and governance arrangements for the delivery of the Plan, each prioritised project will have its own project specific outputs and outcomes which demonstrate their intended and agreed contribution to these higher-level objectives and against which they will be required to measure and report progress on a regular basis.

Underpinning the Vision and the identified Themes, are the strategic objectives which for Haltwhistle have been identified as:

1. **SO1. Vibrant Town** - Maintain and increase the number of visitors spending money throughout the year.
2. **SO2. Inclusive Town** - Collaborate with the local community to imagine and then build a long-term future for the town.
3. **SO3. Working Town** - Retain and increase the working age population of the town.

Project proposals

Investment Theme One – Developing the tourist offer

Project Title/ Sponsor Sector	Initiative	Strategic Objectives	Potential outputs/Outcomes
Active Centre of Britain 3rd Sector	To create a sustainable indoor and outdoor activity centre, bunkhouse accommodation, cafe and space for training/events/meetings.	Borderlands strategic objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Place Plan strategic objectives - Vibrant Town Inclusive Town Working Town	Increased footfall Increased visitor spend Jobs created
Town Hub Public Sector and 3rd Sector	A centre for residents and tourists housing tourist information, a heritage centre, office space and meeting rooms.	Borderlands strategic objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Place Plan strategic objectives - Vibrant Town Inclusive Town Working Town	Increased footfall Increased visitor spend Jobs created Underused building brought back into more beneficial use
Haltwhistle to Hadrian Public Sector	Improved and enhanced wayfinding signage, bespoke physical, interactive and digital informational signage promoting heritage, culture, geology etc. Haltwhistle Burn interactive trail to Hadrian's Wall Development of a Local Visitor Economy Group in collaboration with the Northumberland National Park Authority.	Borderlands strategic objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Place Plan strategic objectives - Vibrant Town	Increased footfall Increased visitor spend
Centre of Britain, Heart of Hadrian's Wall Public Sector	High street public realm and shop front improvements; banners promoting events; presentation of 'Centre of Britain, heart of Hadrian's Wall' in a more unified style.	Borderlands strategic objectives 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Place Plan strategic objectives - Vibrant Town Inclusive Town Working Town	Improved public realm Increased footfall Increased visitor spend

Investment Theme Two – Skills development and retention of young people

Project Title/ Sponsor Sector	Initiative	Strategic Objectives	Potential outputs/Outcomes
The Makery 3rd Sector	The reinvention of a long dormant bakery into a making and sharing space from which existing and future businesses can thrive. A bookable office and workspace, skill share and after school activities and a flexible creative arts and study space supporting and presenting all art forms.	Borderlands strategic objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Place Plan strategic objectives - Vibrant Town Inclusive Town Working Town	Jobs created New businesses created Derelict building brought back into use

Investment Theme Three – Business Innovation and Diversification of the Retail/Hospitality Offer

Project Title/ Sponsor Sector	Initiative	Strategic Objectives	Potential outputs/Outcomes
Community Energy for a Sustainable Haltwhistle 3rd Sector	PV panels to generate electricity for local businesses and residents.	Borderlands strategic objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Place Plan strategic objectives - Inclusive Town Working Town	New businesses attracted to the town
Greenways Private Sector	Green space linking existing and new homes to the school and leisure centre. Hubs for business, play park, tennis court, retail.	Borderlands strategic objectives 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Place Plan strategic objectives - Inclusive Town Working Town	Office space developed Retail units created New housing Improved public realm Jobs created

Project Title/ Sponsor Sector	Initiative	Strategic Objectives	Potential outputs/Outcomes
EV Car Club 3rd Sector	Creation of an EV Car Club to improve accessibility for residents and tourist in a carbon neutral manner.	Borderlands strategic objectives 1 and 7 Place Plan strategic objectives - Inclusive Town	Increased visitor numbers
Working Men's Club 3rd Sector	Restoration of Working Men's Club after fire damage to provide community activities.	Borderlands strategic objectives 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Place Plan strategic objectives - Vibrant Town Working Town	Derelict building restored Job creation

Project Proposals Prioritised for Development Support Towards Borderlands Town Investment Plan (BTIP)

The Place Partnership Group have also considered which of the Place Plan project proposals may be in scope for BTIP development. This is based on available information at this EOI stage in the project development process and considering the following criteria:

- Strategic fit with Place Plan
- Strategic fit with Borderlands eligible activity and key drivers e.g. town centre regeneration
- Value for Money and Deliverability
- Suitability for this funding stream versus other known options in terms of additionality of Borderlands funding.

The proposals in the table below were identified as being those that best fit the criteria at this stage. It is important to note that the final projects to be included in a BTIP may be amended as further project development is undertaken to support the delivery of this Place Plan:

Project Title	Project Description
Active Centre of Britain	A sustainable indoor and outdoor activity centre, bunkhouse accommodation.
The Makery	A making and sharing space for existing and new creative businesses. A venue for visual and performing arts.
Haltwhistle to Hadrian	Interactive trail between Haltwhistle and Hadrian's Wall. Development of an LVEG.
Centre of Britain, Heart of Hadrian's Wall	Public realm and shop front improvements.
Greenways	Green space linking existing and new homes to the school and leisure centre. Hubs for businesses, play park, tennis court and retail units.
Town Hub	Hub for residents and visitors providing services and key facilities.

The proposals in the wider pipeline will be added to the local authority's project pipeline and their development monitored regularly by the PPG. NCC will discuss in liaison with sponsors how project development and delivery can be supported further utilising available resources and funding opportunities.

Investment theme outputs and outcomes

Project ideas have been sought locally and from the broader engagement work undertaken with regard to existing Action Plans and Local Plans prepared by the Town Council, Parish Council, Northumberland County Council, North of Tyne Combined Authority and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership. The following tables set out the potential outputs, outcomes and measurements underpinning the Place Plan. This will form the basis for monitoring and performance management under each theme to support the effective delivery of the Place Plans vision and objectives.

Investment Theme 1: Developing the Tourist Offer – aims to invest in retaining both spend and activity in the town to drive the regeneration of Haltwhistle’s town centre and improve the resident and visitor experience, bolstering daytime activity and encouraging increased footfall and spend. Provision of all-weather activities and aspiring to excellence in the customer experience

Aspirations	Outputs/Outcomes	Measurements
<p>To achieve a vibrant, connected place to live, work, relax and visit. Improving the public realm, creating space for walking, cycling and a thriving street market.</p> <p>Supporting the arts and cultural sector by positioning Haltwhistle as a primary tourist destination through stronger collaboration, joint marketing and providing a distinctive welcome.</p> <p>By ensuring that the physical infrastructure of the town evolves to better serve the access and movement needs of an ageing demographic. At the same time ensuring that the expectations and needs of a wide range of visitors are considered</p> <p>Investing in supporting collaboration between businesses, arts and culture organisations, and local authorities to better develop the cultural and retail offer of the town and attract new audiences</p>	<p>Increasing the number of commercial buildings developed or improved</p> <p>Increasing the amount of rehabilitated land.</p> <p>Increasing occupancy rates in the town centre.</p> <p>Creating and improving public realm to improve health and wellbeing and connectivity.</p> <p>Increased quality of local events and cultural offer.</p> <p>Increased footfall (% increase).</p> <p>Increased day visitors (% increase).</p> <p>Completion of feasibility and demand studies to enable future investment.</p>	<p>Census data on population, economic activity, education & Income.</p> <p>Footfall monitoring.</p> <p>Town Centre occupier surveys.</p> <p>Employment/ training statistics.</p> <p>Business records & support accessed.</p> <p>Government business data.</p> <p>Physical project data, plans and photographs.</p> <p>£ Funding leveraged.</p> <p>Visitor/ Resident survey work.</p> <p>Housing Needs and Demands Survey.</p>

Aspirations	Outputs/Outcomes	Measurements
<p>Management of place and quality of the environment - visitors expect an attractive and easy to use environment; they expect good public toilets, cafés, shops, clear signs, maps and other information, good public transport and easy parking. If we aspire to have world-class visitor destinations, then all of these activities need to be integrated and managed.</p> <p>Spreading the benefits of tourism to local people - the wider ambition of the strategy is to generate wealth and create a sustainable and cohesive community. That means increasing profit and higher wages.</p> <p>Developing and promoting Haltwhistle's unique independent retail sector.</p> <p>Exploring opportunities for promoting culture-led regeneration and community development – for example investing in culture focused feasibility studies and community facilities to attract people to places.</p> <p>Improving green spaces and preserving important local assets – for example enhancing natural assets, including green spaces in neighbourhoods and housing estates, to enhance quality of life to attract and retain talent, and attract tourism.</p> <p>In addition to the daytime offer, enhancing the evening economy as a key role to generate further revenue opportunities.</p>		

Investment Theme 2: Skills Development and Retention of Young People - aims to retain and increase the working age population in Haltwhistle by creating and safeguarding employment in Haltwhistle. Work in partnership to provide residents including young people with the opportunity to be part of a skilled workforce with a sustainable future in the town and North East economy

Outputs	Outcomes	Measurements
<p>To equip people with the skills and confidence to be active agents in transition to a net zero future – Helping young people, in particular, to achieve their potential, strengthen their progression and pathways through education, employment, self-enterprise and raise their aspirations and income levels. Skills development is significantly cheaper than physical capital but remains a missing piece of business investment.</p> <p>To connect local business to learning opportunities to create more skilled jobs, new and adapted businesses, and increased enterprise start-ups.</p> <p>Through programmes of skills and mentoring to prepare young people, in particular and residents, more generally, for a net zero future.</p> <p>To bring together key stakeholders from local businesses and organisations to design and deliver programmes of skills training sessions and creating more apprenticeship opportunities within the Haltwhistle area.</p>	<p>Number of people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services.</p> <p>Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following intervention.</p> <p>Number of people in education/ training.</p> <p>Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support.</p>	<p>Census data on population, economic activity, education & Income.</p> <p>Footfall monitoring</p> <p>Town Centre occupier surveys.</p> <p>Employment/ training statistics.</p> <p>Business records & support accessed.</p> <p>Government business data.</p> <p>Physical project data, plans and photographs.</p>

Outcomes

Investment Theme 3: Business Innovation and Diversification of the Retail/Hospitality Offer - aims to encourage high quality innovative businesses to locate in Haltwhistle providing residents with skilled, well-paid employment opportunities. Developing vacant sites in the town centre and surrounding industrial parks. Encouraging a more diverse and high-quality range of retail and hospitality options in the town for residents and visitors

Outputs	Outcomes	Measurements
<p>Working with key landowners and stakeholders to improve work-space availability for creative industries and enterprise start ups.</p> <p>To connect local business to learning opportunities to create more skilled jobs, new and adapted businesses, and increased enterprise start-ups.</p> <p>Developing excellence in skills - a well-trained workforce is paramount with key priorities being chef training, leadership and customer service. Challenges to overcome include retention of workforce, training fatigue and the image of hospitality as a career. A key issue is the lack of consistency in skills training and independent businesses must have access to the same high-quality advice that larger businesses have as a matter of course. This is relevant to all sectors of the service economy, particularly retail.</p> <p>Retraining, upskilling or reskilling members of the workforce – for example support for relevant training where the local workforce may require new skills to meet the needs of a local employer or sector.</p> <p>Promoting the advancement of digital skills and inclusion – for example supporting the development of digital skills for digitally excluded individuals.</p>	<p>Number of people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills.</p> <p>Completion of feasibility studies to enable future investment.</p> <p>Number of new businesses Created.</p> <p>Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity.</p> <p>Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready.</p>	<p>Census data on population, economic activity, education & Income.</p> <p>Town Centre occupier surveys.</p> <p>Employment/ training statistics.</p> <p>Business records & support accessed.</p> <p>Government business data.</p> <p>Physical project data, plans and photographs.</p>

Outputs	Outcomes	Measurements
<p>Supporting entrepreneurs and helping businesses with potential to create more job opportunities for current employees or take on new employees – for example enabling access to specialist support such as investor readiness schemes.</p> <p>Supporting decarbonisation measures – for example encouraging local businesses and organisations to reduce greenhouse gases through investment in new technology or energy efficiency measures.</p> <p>Projects that foster knowledge transfer activity. This may include nurturing further join up between higher education institutions and small businesses, leading to new product development, commercialisation, diversification and productivity benefits.</p> <p>Developing innovative approaches to ensure young people starting new retail enterprises have access to low-cost retail outlets, through innovative access to market stalls and empty shops.</p> <p>Better, higher quality, more productive businesses, that generate more profit, require higher skilled staff and are able to offer better pay and conditions to secure residents with more attractive careers that both retain local people and attract people to live and work in Haltwhistle.</p>		

Performance monitoring

The Haltwhistle Place Plan has been developed to meet evidenced local needs and a clear baseline has been set to enable monitoring of progress and achievement of outputs, outcomes and other benefits. Any gaps in data or baselines will be progressed during the Borderland Town Investment Plan (BTIP) development process to underpin the prioritised projects and the programme overall.

The lead authority, Northumberland County Council will undertake monitoring of the overall investment programme as outlined in the Place Plan and the subsequent BTIP in conjunction with the Haltwhistle Place Partnership Group in line with the approach used for other place-based programmes as set out below:

- Demonstrate clearly how the scheme objectives will be achieved including intended changes and demonstrating the links between the interventions and benefits & outcomes within the community.
- Agree the baseline (current context and data both quantitative and qualitative) and progress stages to keep the Place Plan and the BTIP focussed and resources aligned.
- Identify gaps in data, baselines, comparators and collection methodology and create solutions, this will lead to refinement of what will be monitored, why and how.
- Enable accurate reporting generating confidence with funders, setting out monitoring of KPI's and change milestones throughout, supporting dynamic risk management.
- Create clear messages about the outputs and outcomes for a range of audiences to widen understanding about the scope and ambitious impact of the Haltwhistle Place Plan.
- Assess the additionality of activities (and impacts) and demonstrate VFM.

Once the Borderlands Partnership Board and the Programme Board approve the Haltwhistle Place Plan, the Place Partnership Group and NCC will be invited to create a Haltwhistle Town Investment Plan. The monitoring and evaluation approach will be a key component of this as it will be fully incorporated into the overarching business case for the Haltwhistle interventions and the individual projects that will combine to deliver the vision and strategic objectives.

NCC as lead authority will be responsible for monitoring project and programme delivery and reporting to the Borderlands PMO. Grant funding agreements will be issued to individual project sponsors once the BTIP Part 1 has been approved and a BTIP Part 2 for an individual project has been approved, which will incorporate all monitoring and reporting requirements and any special conditions that might apply such as compliance with subsidy control.

Appropriate systems, processes and records will be established to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements such as eligibility, record keeping, document retention, financial output and milestone monitoring and reporting requirements, publicity requirements, subsidy control, procurement and audit purposes.

The Place Partnership Group will receive regular updates on the progress of BTIP projects and provide ongoing community oversight of these and the wider package of interventions that are not Borderlands eligible but continue to meet the vision and investment priorities outlined in this Place Plan.

Management and governance

The Haltwhistle Place Plan has been developed with the local community and it represents their vision and aspirations for the town. The Place Partnership Group will continue to meet regularly to develop the Town Investment Plan and the prioritised projects and will support the wider pipeline of interventions that may be eligible for a range of other funding.

The remit of the Place Partnership Group will be reviewed regularly to ensure that representation is diverse and inclusive to provide strategic oversight, influence and direction to implementation of the Place Plan. This group is vital as the interventions are shaped to ensure strong community engagement and consultation and to encourage maximum collaboration with project sponsors across the investment themes.

In terms of approvals and assurance, the role of the group is to guide, input to and agree the projects that are identified as priority for Borderlands funding during the BTIP process from a collective community perspective. The group will provide local endorsement for the final BTIP, which will then require approval from NCC prior to submitting to the Borderlands PMO and being subject to full appraisal.

With the support of NCC the group will fully consider any queries that result from this process and respond through regular meetings to ensuring that the final BTIP is ambitious and deliverable.

Subject to BTIP approval, it is anticipated that the Haltwhistle Place Partnership Group will become an active champion of the investment plan and support ongoing communication and engagement activities as projects develop using their local connections and collective voice.

There has been significant momentum gained and the group will continue to be supported by council officers with meeting co-ordination, progress reporting and advice for members and project sponsors on external funding opportunities. This will ensure that the



Place Plan has the widest impact possible and will incorporate best practice through the network of Borderlands place programme officers and the Borderlands PMO.

The role of NCC as lead authority is established through guidance from the Borderlands Place Programme and includes formally approving the BTIP for submission to the Borderlands PMO. NCC will implement an internal assurance process prior to submission to ensure the plan is compliant with guidance and the business case for the Haltwhistle programme and the local package of projects are viable, deliverable and will lead to delivery of the vision, objectives and intended outputs and outcomes.

Once the BTIP is approved and a BTIP Part 2 for an individual project is approved, NCC will be responsible as accountable body for issuing grant funding agreements to individual projects as well as monitoring spend, progress and performance. The council's Economy & Regeneration Service will support co-ordination of the Place Partnership Group keeping them updated with progress.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Consultation report

This document is also available in an accessible format.

Contact us

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Front cover images, from left to right:
Centre of Britain road sign. Main Street, Haltwhistle.