

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Meeting date: 15 November 2021

From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

DALTON PLACE PLAN

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *The Borderlands Partnership Board has approved the £50m Borderlands Place Programme, subject to approval from Government. This includes £18m for Cumbria for six towns. Release of the funding for individual towns within the programme, is subject to approval of a Place Plan and then a subsequent Borderlands Town Investment Plan (BTIP).*

1.2 *This report provides details of the Place Plan for Dalton and endorsement to submit the document to the Borderlands Partnership. The development of this plan was supported by a programme of engagement and with the support of a Town Team which brought together a range of community stakeholders.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *The County Council's vision set out in the Council Plan 2018-2022 is to be "a Council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources". The approach and work in developing the Place Plan for Dalton directly contributes to this. The establishment of a "Town Team" for Dalton has ensured that the plan has been developed through partnership working with stakeholders to shape the aims and ambitions of the Plan in a way that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of the local community for their place.*

2.2 *The development of the Dalton Place Plan helps to achieve the Council Plan 2018-2022 outcomes, which are:*

- *To enable communities to live safely and shape services locally*
- *To promote health and wellbeing, and tackle poverty*
- *To promote sustainable economic growth, and create jobs*

2.3 *The development, operation and monitoring of the Council Plan requires a focus on the Council's performance against the identified outcomes, increasingly understood through localities. The Dalton Place Plan will support the delivery of two of the Barrow Area Plan targeted priorities for the area, which are:*

- *Improving health and well-being and tackling poverty*
- *Promoting sustainable economic growth and creating jobs*

2.4 *The Place Plan has been designed to improve outcomes for the Dalton community. The Plan will be used to lever in external funding to initiate new activity or to enhance/complement existing provision in line with the Vision and Themes identified within the Plan.*

2.5 *Local Committee is mindful of equality issues and duly considers that its actions and decisions do not result in inequality of service provision or exclusion from participation. The Borderlands Place Programme work is consistent with these principles. The work of Local Committee directly supports the Council's wider equalities agenda.*

3.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 *That Members endorse the Dalton Place Plan and its submission to the Borderlands Partnership, with delegation to be given to the Chair and Vice-Chair to agree the final designed version.*

4.0 **BACKGROUND**

4.1 On 18th March 2021, the Leaders of the Borderlands Councils and UK and Scottish Government Ministers signed the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Agreement. The jointly funded Deal secures up to £350m from the UK Government and Scottish Government and unlocks a further £102.56m of local investment across the area.

4.2 The Deal includes provision for the Borderlands Place Programme, and the Borderlands Partnership Board has approved £50m for this activity, subject to approval from Government. This includes £18m for Cumbria for six towns. Release of the funding for individual towns within the programme, is subject to approval of Place Plans and Borderlands Town Investment Plans (BTIPs). The Council is progressing the development of Place Plans for five of the selected towns in Cumbria, including Dalton.

4.3 The aims of the Place Programme are to:

- Attract new businesses to our towns and town centres.
- Increase and retain our working age population.
- Raise the standard of the physical environment in our towns and town centres.
- Increase the number of people living in our towns and town centres.

- Deliver new jobs and opportunities for economic and social participation.
 - Increase the number of visitors who spend time and money in our towns and town centres.
- 4.4 The first step in the process is the development of the Place Plan, which aims to articulate a case for investment for Dalton identifying a vision for where Dalton would like to be, the key opportunities and challenges within the town, themes for possible investment opportunities, and suggested concepts to achieve the town’s aims and objectives.
- 4.5 To support the development of the Plan, a Town Team for Dalton was established which includes stakeholders from within the town who have helped shape the document, utilising their local knowledge and expertise. Consultancy support has also been used to help develop the Plan. The Town Team considered the plan at their November 2nd meeting.
- 4.6 In developing the vision, themes and project ideas for the plan, extensive stakeholder engagement and consultation was undertaken over the summer. The level of commitment and participation from residents, the community and other stakeholders within Dalton has been excellent reflecting the commitment from the town in the place planning process.
- 4.7 The agreed vision and accompanying themes for the town are as follows:
 Vision: *“an economic role that comes from being a quality place people choose to live in, a caring community for people who work in Barrow, Sellafield and elsewhere”*.
 Accompanying themes:
- *A community to cherish*
 - *Celebrating our character*
 - *Active lifestyles*
- 4.8 Through the consultation process a range of project ideas and interventions were received. The Plan has shortlisted these ideas into project concepts that will be taken forward for further development into business cases. It should be noted that it will not be feasible for all projects to be delivered through Borderlands and for each proposal consideration as to the most effective delivery model will be undertaken through subsequent development phases.

Theme	Concept
Theme 1- Community to Cherish	High Street enhancements grant programme to repurpose town centre buildings
Theme 1- Community to Cherish	Station gateway enhancements
Theme 2 - Celebrating our Character	Creation of a new attraction (potentially focussing on the Castle and Market Square) to celebrate culture and Dalton as the Ancient Furness Capital

Theme 3 - Active Lifestyles	Dalton to Barrow Cycleway (and linking to the Barrow cycle routes)
Theme 3 - Active Lifestyles	Enhanced outdoor and indoor recreation facilities

- 4.9 Through this process, it is anticipated that access to Borderlands funding will be prioritised, focused on those projects that best meet the criteria priorities of the Borderlands Place programme, in particular those that bring greatest economic benefits for the town, through increasing footfall resulting in increased spend and ultimately safeguarding and creating new jobs. However, this can't be done until the project concepts have been worked up into more detailed project proposals.
- 4.10 The projects prioritised for Borderlands funding will then be included within the BTIP that will be prepared for submission to the Borderlands Partnership. The BTIP will require endorsement from the Town Team and Local Committee prior to submission. It is important to recognise, that while Borderlands does offer a focus for the Place Plan, their strategy should be viewed as a tool that can support steps to secure other external funding and the Place Plan is not limited to Borderlands funding.
- 4.11 Should the recommendation of this paper be accepted, the Place Plan will be submitted to the Borderlands Partnership for consideration at the Borderlands Place Programme Board on the 17th December 2021. If a positive decision is received at this Board a request to submit a BTIP will be given. Work will then commence in the new year to progress the concepts identified above into more detail business cases ready for submission to the external funders

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 Members could choose to endorse the Plan for submission to the Borderlands Partnership, defer the submission of the Plan or chose not to endorse the Plan. If Members chose not to endorse the Plan, the opportunity to draw down Borderlands Place Programme Investment would be lost.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Endorsement of the plan is needed as part of the submission of the plan to the Partnership and to secure Borderlands funding for the Dalton Place Plan.
- 6.2 There are no direct resource implications for the budget devolved to Local Committee from the recommendation to endorse the Dalton Place Plan and its submission to the Borderlands Partnership.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The Local Committee is authorised to consider and choose the options in the plan in respect of the submissions to the Borderlands Partnership.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The report provides details of the preparation of the Dalton Place Plan and seeks endorsement from the Committee to submit the Plan to the Borderlands Partnership.

Angela Jones
Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

1st November 2021

APPENDICES

Dalton Place Plan – To Follow

Electoral Divisions: Dalton North and Dalton South

Executive Decision

Key Decision

If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

None

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

REPORT AUTHOR

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