

**Written response to question / issue  
raised at Economic Growth Scrutiny  
Panel (17 June 2021)**

**Meeting Date:** 17 June 2021

**Public / Private\*:** Public

**Minute Reference:** EGSP.37/21 LOCAL ENVIRONMENT (CLIMATE CHANGE) STRATEGY  
UPDATE

**Written response to:**

**Written response from:** Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel (17 June 2021)  
Policy & Communications Manager

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**Resolution / Question:**

RESOLVED –

4) That the Policy and Communications Manager provide detailed information regarding the impact that major projects within the City had on climate change and potential growth.

**Response:**

The main programme is the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and the projects are listed below.

Encouraging Green Growth: Borderlands is committed to becoming a carbon neutral region. Our whole system approach to investing in green energy, coupled with our plans to maximise the benefit from our outstanding natural resources will lead to a vibrant economy driven by clean energy.

***Energy Investment Company***

A newly established Borderlands Energy Investment Company will act as a strategic coordinator and investment route to establish a Borderlands Energy Masterplan. A successfully managed and delivered Energy Masterplan with priorities, that complement the UK and Scottish Government's policies for clean growth and energy will establish a route to bringing Borderlands closer to a carbon neutral region whilst making our area more attractive to live and work in. The Borderlands' Energy Investment Company will be established and operated by the five member authorities, along with the UK and Scottish Government. These seven public sector bodies would be the main members further supported by a technically skilled energy-specific governance structure highlighted in this Strategic Outline Business Case and further supported by the established wider Borderlands governance structure.

## ***Energy Masterplan***

The overarching Borderlands Energy Masterplan will be developed following a Scottish Enterprise designed approach, and will establish:

The role of green energy in delivering growth through new business opportunities and investment and a basis for future planning and investment decisions. Masterplanning is identifying investment activity that needs to be taken forward at a Borderlands wide geographic area, and activity that needs to take place at a more local level.

The masterplanning covers private sector investment appetite, feasibility of securing investment, and role of public funds in leveraging this investment, which will provide important direction in generating project ideas for the company to assess. The master planning exercise will draw on the baseline of information and strategic planning that is already available or underway. This includes baseline evidence for each of the four geographies which comprise Borderlands. For the South of Scotland this is collated in a study undertaken for Scottish Government in Spring 2018 (BuroHappold study), while in Cumbria and Northumberland, baseline information can be derived from sub-national data held by BEIS and analysed in the development of the respective local energy strategies for each area.

***Natural Capital Innovation Zone:*** Linked to the Innovation Centres for Dairy and Forestry, this designation will present opportunities to introduce new ways of working. These will fuse together the best practice from both environmental stewardship initiatives (such as the Defra pioneers, landscape partnerships, river trusts, forestry investment zones) and economic and social growth initiatives (such as the LEADER, neighbourhood and community planning, and strategic economic plans) to maximise the full benefit from our countryside within the context of responding to climate change.

**Date: 30/6/21**