

Stephen Rickitt

From: The Borderlands Partnership <info@borderlandsgrowth.com>
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To: Stephen Rickitt
Subject: The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Newsletter October 2020

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Progress update October 2020

We're continuing to make good progress towards signing off the full Borderlands Deal. Our latest newsletter brings you details of an exciting opportunity to apply to join our new Economic Forum and news from the rollout of the Digital Borderlands voucher scheme.

The delivery of the projects in the Deal will be more vital than ever in light of the Covid-19 emergency, supporting the recovery and future development of our economy across the Borderlands region. We already have some Deal projects in early delivery. As well as the rollout of the Digital Borderlands voucher scheme, work has started on the Alwick Gardens project and on the development of our energy masterplan which will support investment in green energy projects across the region. Looking ahead, the

future investment from the Deal in our proposed place and destination projects will support recovery and growth, recognising the significant impact from Covid-19 on our hospitality and tourism sectors as well as in our town centres. We'll bring news of our other projects as they develop further in our next newsletter.

Borderlands Economic Forum recruitment – an exciting opportunity to get involved

We're setting up the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Economic Forum, a fantastic opportunity for individuals from the business community who are passionate about the place they live and work to contribute to the future of the Borderlands. It will be a central part of how we will deliver our Deal, putting the voice of businesses, third sector and regional strategic economic partners at the heart of our work. We are seeking to recruit ten leading local businesspeople from across the Borderlands region to join our new Economic Forum.

For more information and to apply, please visit our website here

www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Economic-Forum Applications, marked 'Board Confidential', can be emailed to info@borderlandsgrowth.com. The closing date for applications is Monday 2nd November 2020.

Digital Borderlands - Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

What is the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme?

The Gigabit Voucher scheme offers business and residents in some of the hardest-to-reach places in the UK additional funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises when part of a group project via the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity programme. This scheme provides between £500 and £3,500 per small and medium-sized businesses (SME) and between £500 and £1,500 per resident to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections.

How does the Digital Borderlands Voucher Scheme compliment the Gigabit

Broadband Voucher Scheme?

Digital Borderlands funding is a 'top up' to the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity Voucher Scheme. Subject to criteria, this voucher scheme has the potential to double the value of the voucher awarded by the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. Find out more about how the scheme works at www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Digital-Voucher-Scheme

Who is eligible?

Rural premises in Cumbria and Northumberland experiencing speeds below 30 Megabits per second (Mbps) are eligible. This scheme is seeking to support properties in northern England to catch up with properties in Scotland which are covered by the Scottish Government Reach 100 scheme www.gov.scot/publications/reaching-100-superfast-broadband-march-2020-update/

I am interested in this scheme, what do I need to do next?

1. Talk to suppliers who are active in your area for the connection deal that is right for you.
2. Your chosen supplier will advise you on your eligibility and guide you through the process. There is no application process to complete, a registered supplier will offer the voucher as a discount towards the installation costs.
3. You must commit to a 12 month contract with your supplier for download speeds of at least 30Mbps through a gigabit-capable connection once services become available

To find out more and access a list of suppliers who are active in your area, visit www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Digital-Voucher-Scheme

Act now!

Funding is time limited and must be committed under the schemes before they close on 31st March 2021. Suppliers are becoming very busy as a result of interest; communities must have an agreed plan in place with their chosen supplier by this date

in order to be considered.

Contact us

If you'd like any more information on any of the topics in the newsletter, or on the Deal in general, please visit our website www.borderlandsgrowth.com or email us at info@borderlandsgrowth.com

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