

Small Places

realising the potential from small settlements . . .

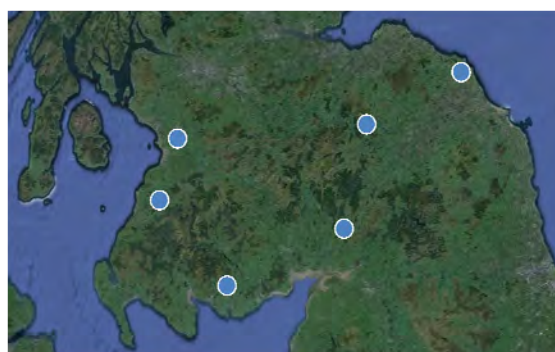
Context

Some 30% of Scotland's population live in small towns. The configuration of services within these places, the ways in which their limited local assets are deployed, and the potential wider benefits from leveraging these will have a profound impact on the future of these communities.

Collaborative working is not only desirable in these small towns, but essential in pursuit of their desired outcomes.

Approach

The Smarterplaces programme is looking at six small towns in order to identify a common suite of place based approaches for this scale of settlement. This has involved engagement with three local authorities: Dumfries and Galloway, South Ayrshire, and the Scottish Borders.



Scope

Place based collaborations have been facilitated in three small places to date: Tarbolton, Dailly, and Langholm. Each involving a range of service providers, community representatives and local stakeholders. In each case new proposals for working together were identified and a framework developed for the delivery of joined up services within shared assets.

Benefits

These projects demonstrate the potential within small places for diverse agencies to come together and use their assets in a way which helps shape the whole place. Getting the right people in the room to adopt a pragmatic approach to realising ambitions seems to yield consistent benefits if done at the right time.

Work underway in each of these projects to develop and deliver the workstreams that emerged, and templates for this approach are now being applied to a further three places.

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