



**Northern**  
Heartlands

## NEWS RELEASE

### NORTHERN HEARTLANDS CHAIRS ITS FIRST PARTNERS MEETING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The first Partner meeting of the Northern Heartlands Great Place Scheme project took place at The Witham in Barnard Castle on Tuesday 25th April.

Thanks to National Lottery players, Northern Heartlands is one of 16 places across England that will collectively receive £20 million to put arts, culture and place making at the heart of their communities.

45 partners from across the region attended the event which was facilitated by Graham Young, chair of Northern Heartlands. Partners heard from members of the project steering group who set the scene, provided context for Northern Heartlands going forward and outlined the ambition for artist/community collaborations.

As well as providing a platform to assess key aspects of the Northern Heartlands project the Partner meeting included a sharing information session for attendees.

Northern Heartlands aims to cultivate engagement and discussion between local communities and commissioned artists in the area. Using innovative approaches, the scheme will support these communities to explore how the area has changed and evolved over time, what they value about their landscape now, as well as encouraging new thinking about how these community aspirations can be translated into future policy and plans.

The Partner meeting was followed by the first Northern Heartlands Advisory Board Meeting.

More details about the Northern Heartlands scheme can be found at:  
<http://www.northernheartlands.org/>

**ENDS**

**Picture caption: Northern Heartlands Advisory Board Members**

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**Notes to editors:**

About Northern Heartlands

Our mission is to use a cultural landscape perspective, using the arts to engage targeted communities and communities of interest in;

- understanding the past and how that has transformed the landscape and its people
  - understanding what people value in their communities
  - identifying and exploring new challenges
  - influencing their own future
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- Northern Heartlands has been supported by a grant from Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund.
  - Thanks to National Lottery players, Northern Heartlands is one of 16 places across England that will collectively receive £20 million to put arts and culture at the heart of their communities.
  - The investment is part of the Great Place Scheme – a National Lottery-funded programme to ensure that investment in arts and culture also has the biggest possible impact on local economies, jobs, education, community cohesion and health and wellbeing.
  - It also aims to persuade local councils, civic organisations and businesses to invest in and put culture at the heart of their thinking.
  - The Great Place Scheme is a pilot and partnership between Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England to fund activities which can be built on in the future, and whose learning can be shared with other places.
  - The Northern Heartlands concept and approach emerged from the successful Heritage Lottery-funded Heart of Teesdale (HoT) Landscape Partnership which concluded in October 2016.