



Northumberland
County Council

Northumberland - “open for business”

5 February 2019

www.northumberland.gov.uk

Challenges facing “shire” County Councils

- Cost of service delivery in rural/remote areas
- Continued austerity with local government budgets
 - Shift to full business rate retention may compound this
- National “economic growth” policy dominated by a city focus
- Competitiveness of rural areas in England further challenged by devolution to Wales and Scotland
- Risk of reduced “rural” and “land management” funding post Brexit

Response of Northumberland County Council

- North of Tyne Devolution Deal
- Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal
- Refreshed Economic Strategy for Northumberland
 - Greater emphasis on place-based sector development
 - Generation of a comprehensive regeneration project pipeline
 - External funding scanning at a corporate level
- Refreshed Cultural Strategy for Northumberland
- Re-establishment of Advance (arms-length development company)
- Town Forums network

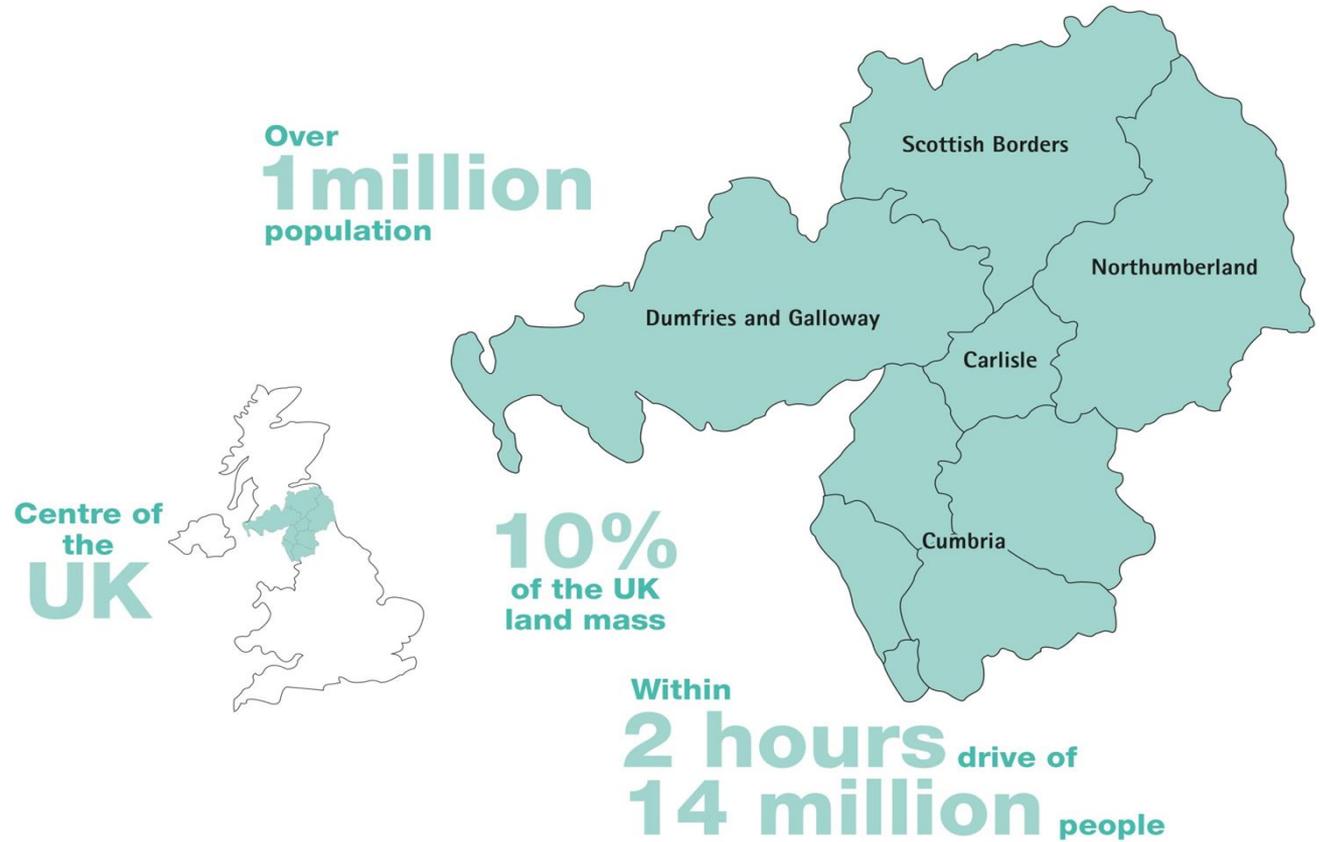
North of Tyne

- Covers Newcastle, North Tyneside, and Northumberland which has a unique geography of city, coast and countryside - “if it works here it can work anywhere in England”
- Functional economic area of 5210 sqkm with population of 810,000 and home to 23,000 businesses with total GVA of £17 billion (larger than Tees Valley, similar in size to West of England)
- First devolution deal signed in November 2017
- Combined Authority established in November 2018
- Mayoral election in May 2019

North of Tyne (2)

- Investment Fund of £20 million per annum for 30 years
 - Clean revenue resource that is subject to 5 year gateways
- First devolution makes specific reference to “rural growth and stewardship” asks
- Place and Productivity portfolio established
 - Rural growth; culture & tourism; energy & low carbon; town centres
- Rural proofing built into the Assurance Framework
- Commitment to establish a Rural Business Growth Fund

Borderlands



Borderlands (2)

- Negotiation with UK and Scottish Governments to securing a 10-year investment package to stimulate economic growth
- Proposition submitted to Government covering:
 - a number of thematic proposals: Energy; Digital; Place; Destination; Business; Knowledge Exchange
 - Collaborative asks associated with Land-Based Productivity and Transport
- Working towards a “Heads of Terms” announcement that will specify the quantum and the broad scope - anticipated over the next 3/4 months

Advice to other County Councils

- Open up direct channels of communication to Government around a set of locally-agreed key messages that focus on the area's strengths
- Maximise the scope to secure recognition of place-based regeneration within the emerging Local Industrial Strategies
- Develop links and collaborations with Universities, national centres of excellence, and growth businesses
- Be fluid about “geography”
- Be opportunistic
- Use power of own capital investment and purchasing power