



Northumberland  
County Council

# Regeneration Update

Corporate Services & Economic Growth  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
12 December 2022

# Broad Role

- Making the case for external funding investment in the county that meets the economic growth and regeneration needs and opportunities of communities and businesses across the county
- Managing the progressive development and implementation of the subsequent and extensive pipeline of secured regeneration, culture and transport projects and programmes
- Providing the Council's accountable body role for externally funded projects and programmes to manage performance and ensure compliance

# Areas of investment

- Town regeneration
- Community regeneration
- Cultural investment
- Rural stewardship and growth
- Pathways to work
- Strategic sites
- Strategic transport

# Town Regeneration

- **Energising Blyth Programme**
  - Capital investment in 11 significant projects funded by Towns Fund and Future High Street Fund
- **Ashington Investment Plan**
  - High Street Innovation Programme funded by North of Tyne Combined Authority in delivery with outcome of significant application to Levelling Up Fund awaited
- **Borderlands Place Programme**
  - Funding targeted at Alnwick, Bedlington, Bellingham, Haltwhistle, Newbiggin, Prudhoe, and Rothbury
- **Hexham High Street Heritage Action Zone**
  - Heritage-led regeneration initiative sponsored by Historic England
- **Berwick Culture and Creative Zone**
  - Culture-led regeneration initiative sponsored by North of Tyne Combined Authority

# Community Regeneration

- Maintain strategic relationship with Town and Parish Councils
- Community Chest
  - Annual call by Local Area Councils for community-based projects
- Community Assets
  - Right to Buy
  - Community Asset Transfer
- External Funding Advisory Service
  - Access to funding advice tools and information, including feasibility work and business case development

# Cultural Investment

- Development of new cultural attractions
  - The Maltings and the Barracks complex in Berwick
  - Ad Gefrin Distillery and Visitor Centre
  - Lilidorei at Alnwick Garden
  - Blyth Cultural Hub
- Hadrian's Wall Investment Programme
  - Unlocking the economic potential of this iconic World Heritage Site
- Destination Tweed
  - Creating a new long-distance recreational route along the Tweed

# Rural Stewardship and Growth

- Investment Plan in development
- Rural Business development
  - Rural Business Growth Fund sponsored by North of Tyne Combined Authority and European Funding to provide bespoke support to rural businesses
  - Future of Farming Inquiry currently ongoing to define how best the Council can support farming through the post-Brexit transition
- Integrated land management of the countryside
  - Borderlands Natural Capital Innovation Zone
  - Great Northumberland Forest
  - Local Nature Recovery

# Pathways to Work

- Employment Partnerships with the voluntary and community sector to help those residents furthest from work back into employment
  - Northumberland Bridge (Building Better Opportunities)
  - North of Tyne Working Homes
  - KickStart brokerage for young people
- Incentivising businesses to be a good employer and to recruit local people where possible
- Tailoring DWP and regional employability support programmes to the needs of Northumberland residents



# Strategic Sites

- Working with Advance Northumberland to attract businesses on to the county's Enterprise Zones
  - Northumberland Energy Park
  - Blyth Riverside
  - Ashwood Business Park, Ashington
- Working with the North of Tyne Combined Authority to unlock the economic potential of the Northumberland Line
  - Defining the next sites for future employment and housing development
  - Unlocking the cultural and tourism offer
  - Strengthening the digital connectivity
  - Build the skills base of the local workforce

# Strategic Transport

- Reopening passenger services to the Northumberland Line
- Making the case for improvements to the major trunk road network (A1, A19, A69) and for new roads to supplement the local road network (Blyth Relief Road)
- Significant programme for establishing additional walking and cycling infrastructure within and around our main towns, with outcome of significant application to Levelling Up Fund awaited
- Work with bus operators to maximise the network of commercial and subsidised routes across the county
- Manage the Council's Concessionary Travel Scheme

# Questions and Comments