

NORTHUMBERLAND VCS CONSORTIUM CONFERENCE

17th March 2008

Local Government Reform: What's it all about?

Jill Dixon

Programme Director
Northumberland Joint Implementation Team

Why LGR?

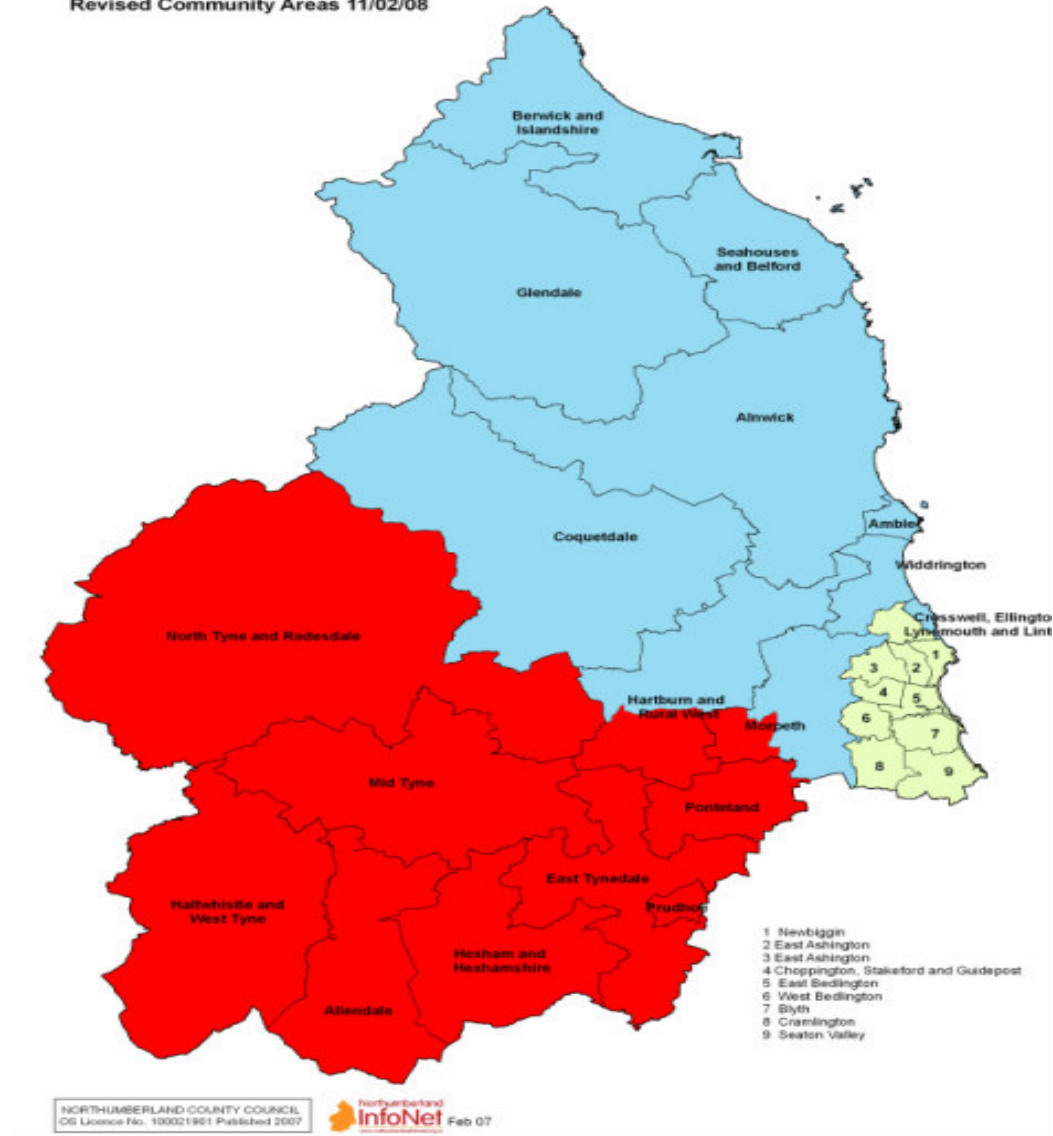
- Government invitation
- Problems with two tier local government:
 - Duplication
 - Confusion
 - Inefficient
- Different views
- Ministerial decision

Benefits

- Single customer service “door”
- Savings of £17m by 2012
- Strong and effective strategic and community leadership
- Devolving to the lowest effective level
- Working at 3 levels – county, area, belonging

Area Arrangements

Revised Community Areas 11/02/08



Whole council blueprint

- One stop shops and contact centre
- Efficient and modern corporate support services
- Integrated services at county, area and belonging
- Partnership arrangements at county, area and belonging
- Strengthened representative and participative democracy

Structures

- 67 councillors
- Indirectly elected Leader and Executive
- Area committees with budgets and powers
- Formal member Scrutiny at county & area level
- One LSP – the NSP
- Strategic directorates:
 - People
 - Place
 - Performance
 - Adult services

The challenge

- Vesting day
- 7 councils into 1
- New councillors
- Transferring 16,000 employees
- Service continuity

- Transformation

The journey so far...

- Joint Implementation Team
- Transition and transformation
 - Day 1 transition plan
 - Service design
- “Business as usual”
- Closing down district councils

How it is governed

Until May 2008

- Implementation Executive
- Member Scrutiny

Until April 2009

- New Unitary Councillors

Until April 2013

- Government monitoring

Partner involvement

- JIT Programme & service clusters
- Whole council blue print
- Belonging community consultation
- Day 1 transition plan
- Future design

Next steps

- Elections in May
 - Service design
 - Medium term financial plan
- Staff appointments and transfers
- Smooth transition
- Focus on longer term transformation
- Ambition to be the best!