

State of the Area Debate

COUNCIL

Date: 25 February 2015

FEED BACK ON BUDGET AT AREA COMMITTEE LEVEL AND STATE OF AREA DEBATE

Background

Pursuant to his powers under the Constitution, the Leader of the Council decided that the State of the Area Debate will take place at the Budget Council on 25 February 2015

The Area Committees met in December at venues around the County. The Executive Directors each gave a presentation outlining the key budgetary issues. As part of the consultative process each Area Committee contributed towards the debate.

The Council has this year set out budget proposals for two financial years – 2015-16 and 2016-17 – to allow for the implications of any policy changes following the General Election in May 2015 to be properly taken into account.

It also aligns the Council's budget setting process with the lifetime of the current Administration with the next Council elections to take place in May 2017. Within this context, the Medium Term Financial Plan includes a provision of £15million in 2017-18 from balances to afford the incoming Administration sufficient space to properly develop its financial strategy for the subsequent period.

The Council recognises the need to adopt a confident approach and develop and implement a financial strategy that is inherently fair in delivering appropriate services where they are most needed, and innovative in exploring and introducing new ways of working. This vision is articulated in the Corporate Plan through four strategic priorities relating to growing our local economy; improving our places and environment; enabling communities and families to be strong; helping people to be healthy and independent.

But, in common with a number of other local authorities, the Government's published spending power figures minimises the impact cuts are having, as

they included ring-fenced funding and money not under the direct control of councils – and should be excluded from the calculation. Government figures show a reduction from £307million to £304million. But stripping out the ring-fenced money, Northumberland's Settlement Funding Assessment has fallen from £139million to just over £119million – a drop of more than 14%.

Of the proposed £44million savings the Council has to make, around £26million over the next two years will come from improved efficiencies including smarter use of IT, better use of the council's buildings and sale of some properties and a review of library, tourism and tourist information centres to join up services where possible.

The remainder over the next two years will come from income generation (£8.47million), cuts in service (around £2.9million), controlling inflation (around £6.27million) and managing demand on services (around £0.35million).

It's proposed to increase Council Tax by 1.99% in each of the next two years – an increase of 54 pence a week for a Band D property.

The Area Committees recognised the scale and extent of the challenge facing the County Council, and as such focused their debates on the potential impact of the proposed budget on service users and the residents of Northumberland. Set out below is a summary of the issues raised at each Area Committee. The full context of the debates is available from the minutes of the respective committees.

(1) South East Area Committee

14 Members of the press and public attended.

The following issues were raised:

- The culture of the Council had improved due to investing money in people.
- Support was expressed for developing a 2 year budget.
- Evidence suggested that the national debt crisis was deteriorating not improving.
- With regard to Arch, next year a dividend of around £1m would be paid back to the Council as dividends.

(2) West Area Committee

13 Members of the press and public attended.

The following issues were raised:

- Support was expressed for developing a 2 year budget. .

- Consideration of all options for the future of housing provision in Northumberland.
- Identification of controversial proposals. £8 million savings were proposed through the generation of additional income either in new areas where charges previously did not exist or increasing charges in line with other local authorities.
- Defence of the proposed Council Tax increase and the long-term consequences of not doing so.
- Concessionary fares. Approximately £4.5 million was allocated for concessionary fares and there were no plans to reduce support.
- Possible positive impact of the price of crude oil which had decreased dramatically in recent weeks / months and impacted on many areas of the budget.

(1) North Area Committee

28 members of the press and public were present.

The following issues were raised:

- Concern was expressed about the proposed cut in public conveniences although Members were advised that discussions would take place soon including an option of providing financial contributions to parish/town councils to provide the service more effectively.
- A resident queried whether there was a proposed 75% cut to the library service, and the effect on outline for areas without Superfast Broadband? Members were advised of plans to organise greater library stock rotation, so rather than buying more books, there would be a better use of books in stock, many of which might have been unused in their current locations. This would result in a better use of resources. An 8% cut was proposed for the library service for service provision/location/ management costs; the 75% figure referred to the proposed reduction in purchases of books/DVDs. Consideration was also being given to ways to have more multi use libraries and linking with IT usage.

In addition, an online survey was launched with the aim of raising awareness of the challenges facing the County Council and to give residents and stakeholders the opportunity to influence the budget setting process. This consultation ran from 25 November 2014 to 23 January 2015. The information on the Council website was viewed 2,577 times and 88 individuals /organisations submitted responses. Four organisations responded by letter/email opposing the proposed cuts. The Economic Prosperity and Strategic Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the proposals at their meeting of 27 January.

A number of responses acknowledged the difficult financial position the Council was in and the difficult budget decisions necessary to achieve the

saving of £44m over the next 2 years as well as maintaining a level of services that the public deserve and expect. They commented that the extra documentation produced this year had been very useful and provided a clearer, more-informed rationale for the proposals.

A full feedback report is attached to the budget report to be considered at this Council, including the many useful suggestions made during consultation and the Administration's response to them.

The Council is committed to protecting front line services as far as possible and continuing to invest in Northumberland and the local economy wherever possible. To this end, the budget proposals for 2015/16 and 2016/17 recommend a council tax increase of 1.99%.

CORPORATE PLAN 2013 TO 2017: State of Northumberland Digest for Year One

In November, a digest was presented to members and made openly available to Partners and the public at the start of the budget process to provide information and facts on the state of Northumberland consistent with the Corporate Plan. This provided a barometer as to the prevailing quality of life across the county as compared with the regional and national average. The detailed indicator-by-indicator analysis is available [here](#) and Northumberland's comparison with regional and national figures is appended to this report for ease of reference.

The County's population

Within the context as to the state of Northumberland, the following points from the 2011 Census are worth noting:

- the County's population is 316,000; 154,100 males and 161,900 females – this shows that the population has grown by 8,600 in the last 10 years, rising from 307,400 in 2001, an increase of 3 per cent
- the County's population is split between the three Areas as follows:

North Northumberland	91,218
South East Northumberland	149,164
West Northumberland	75,646

- the County's population density of 63 residents per square kilometre is lower than any other local authority in the North East region and is the lowest top tier local authority in England.
- 20 per cent of the population is aged 65 and over; an increase from 18 per cent in 2001.
- most residents belong to the white ethnic group (98 per cent, 311,100), a decrease of one percentage point since 2001 (99 per cent, 304,200).

- 138,500 of households were occupied (compared to 130,800 in 2001), with an average of 2.2 residents per household
- Most households own their own home outright (33 per cent, 46,100) or with a mortgage or loan (33 per cent, 46,100).
- The number of cars and vans available to households in the county has increased by 26,600 (19 per cent) to 169,000 since 2001.
- 78 per cent (247,400) of residents assessed their general health as either very good or good
- 11 per cent (35,700) of residents were giving care in 2011 and almost two fifths (38 per cent, 13,400) of residents provided 20 or more hours of unpaid care per week.

Economic Growth

The Council's aim is to promote a more prosperous county through sustainable economic growth that provides residents with ready access to high wage and skilled jobs and opportunities to create thriving businesses.

Productivity

Northumberland has the lowest GVA per head in the North East of England. One of the primary reasons for this is that GVA is measured by where an individual works not where they live. Northumberland has a significant level of out-commuting to the Tyneside economy – with much of that out-commuting related to knowledge-based jobs. Equally, the county's low wage levels and worklessness rates are also contributing factors.

Business

The county's business base consists of the following elements:

- a high proportion of small businesses, with 85% of enterprises employing less than 5 staff
- higher levels of self-employment than other parts of the country
- a number of sizeable branch plants of international companies
- a cluster of medium sized enterprises that compete within the global economy
- a higher proportion of the workforce is employed in the public sector

Employment

Northumberland has a consistently higher proportion of the working age population in employment than either the region or the country. Currently, this equates to almost three quarters of those aged between 16 and 64 years old (74.1%). On this basis, the unemployment rate for the county is broadly consistent with the national average at 7.2%

However, this positive trend needs to be tempered with respect to the quality of that employment:

- Northumberland has a significantly higher and increasing level of part time employment
- The unemployment rate varies significantly across the county – with the claimant count ranging from 0.3% in Embleton to 20.7% in Hirst – the latter being comparable with the worst in the North East.
- Northumberland has a significantly lower rate of earnings for full-time employees

Skills

In general, qualification levels are higher in Northumberland than in the North East and England; and these levels are broadly improving over time. So, in 2013, of people aged between 16 and 64: 73.2% have a level 2 or higher qualification; 54.4% have a level3+ qualification; and 30.7% have a level 4 qualification.

Correspondingly, only 7.2% of the working age population have no qualifications; which is lower than both the equivalent regional (10.7%) and national (9.1%) figures. However, it should be noted that the percentage of students leaving secondary school with 5 good GCSEs is lower than the regional and national equivalent levels.

Places and Environment

The Council's aim is to maintain and further improve the quality of our town, villages and countryside and to make it easier for residents to access services and high quality, affordable homes and to travel using different modes of transport.

Satisfaction with the Place

Northumberland residents are far more likely to speak positively rather than negatively about their local area with three quarters satisfied (75%) with the county as a place to live.

However, the direction of travel between 2008 and 2012 shows a decrease in the level of satisfaction (from 81%). Equally, the satisfaction levels vary depending on which part of the county residents live in – so in the North and West the satisfaction levels are 82% and 83% respectively but in the South East, the figure drops to 65%.

Sustainable development

The level of greenhouse gas emissions in Northumberland is generally decreasing over time but persistently remains higher than both the regional and national average.

The rate of domestic energy use is also higher in Northumberland. This is partly due to a more homes not being connected to the gas or electricity supply and thereby relying on less efficient fuel; and also because there are still a number of homes (within the private rented stock in particular) where thermal warmth remains an issue.

Town centres

The information on the relative strength of the county's town centres only provides a single year snapshot, so it is difficult to draw and firm conclusions particularly as the state of the high street can fluctuate from year to year. Nonetheless, it would appear that the town centres in the heart of the county are performing better than those in the far north and west and in the south east.

Affordable housing

The average house price in Northumberland is £172,339 which is significantly higher than the regional average. Over recent years, this figure has remained broadly stable with the exponential growth seen in other parts of the country not apparent. However, across the county the variation is again quite stark with house prices varying from £51,082 in Hirst ward to £404,603 in Longhorsley ward.

The total number of houses of affordable homes delivered in Northumberland has significantly decreased (down 40%) since 2009. However, whilst the level of homeless fluctuates a little from year to year it remains consistently lower than the regional and national averages.

This administration has targeted 1000 new homes by the end of the Council (2017). The Council is delivering against this target by building new Council homes, enabling partner RSL's to build new homes, negotiating with housing developers to provide affordable homes under S106 agreements and also securing commuted sums through S106 for offsite affordable homes development. In terms of delivery, the numbers of affordable homes delivered via these initiatives is 189 for 2013/14 and 452 by 31 March 2015. The Council is being proactive in looking at different models and bidding for national funding opportunities and that we attracted nearly £9ml of increased housing revenue account borrowing approval in Dec 2014, which will fund another 100 Council homes. A strategic partnership is being developed with Arch, in order to help maximise the number of rented homes that are accessible to local people across Northumberland.

Sustainable Travel

Generally, accessibility to workplaces or school by public transport, walking or cycling is poorer in Northumberland than in other parts of the country. This situation is deteriorating over time.

Stronger Communities and Families

The Council's aim is to ensure that all residents genuinely feel safe, belong, and have a say in how the county is run, and to provide a range of quality community and cultural services and facilities which inspire creativity and participation.

Community Empowerment

One in four residents (27%) definitely or tend to agree they can influence decisions which affect their local area. This is broadly consistent with the findings from 2008 when 28% felt they had a say in their community. These individuals tend to be more positive about where they live and the local authority. On this basis, the previous sub-county variation is maintained with the number of residents in south east Northumberland (23%) feeling less influential than their counterparts in the north (31%) and the west (29%).

Community safety

Northumberland has significantly lower total crime levels per head of population than either the North East or England as a whole. Within this, the most significant crimes relate to theft, burglary, and criminal damage and arson.

Nonetheless, 7% of residents feel that crime is a big or fairly big issue, with this rising in the towns of Ashington, Bedlington and Blyth (all 11%). Equally, more than one in ten residents feel anti-social behaviour is a very or fairly big problem, with this again rising in the towns of Ashington (19%), Bedlington (18%), and Blyth (17%).

Community Development

Around half of Northumberland residents agree that local people pull together to improve their area (45%). This is higher than the equivalent levels in neighbouring local authority areas. This rises to as high as 63% and 57% in the west and north respectively but falls to 27% in the south east.

Poverty and Deprivation

14% of the working age population are claiming key benefits, which is lower than the regional rate but higher than the national one. This proportion has fallen by 8% since 2009, but this is lower than the reductions for both the North East (11%) and England (11%).

8% of Northumberland's population are among the 10% most deprived in England; with more than one in five residents living in the 25% most deprived communities in the country. The vast majority of this poverty is located within South East Northumberland.

Troubled Families

17% of all children in Northumberland – over 10,000 in number – are living in poverty.

However, the two key indicators used to track the relative well-being of young people – the numbers not in employment, education or training (NEET) and teenage conception rate – are both declining with the current levels consistent with the national average.

Health and Well Being

The Council's aim is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to lead healthy, independent lives for as long as possible and to safeguard our most vulnerable residents in a way that maintains their dignity and confidence.

Life Expectancy

Northumberland has a higher healthy life expectancy for both males and females than the North East, but they are slightly lower than the England average. However, the county goes against the trend with males having a higher life expectancy than females. In addition, men spend a higher percentage of life in good health than women.

However, life expectancy at birth by ward illustrates some sharp contrasts – for men it ranges from 88 years in Norham and Islandshire to 72.3 years in Croft; and for women from a high of 89.1 years in Cramlington North to a low of 77.7 years in Croft.

Independent Living

Northumberland has the highest proportion of people feeling they have control over their daily lives with 79% compared with the regional and national rates. These rates are higher for men (82.4%) than for women (76.8%) – which match the trends for both the North East and England. However, the rates are higher for older people (79.2%) than for working age people (78.7%) which contrasts with the regional and national picture.

Northumberland has a significantly lower proportion of older people in income deprivation (15.9%) than both the North East (23.3%) and England (18.1%).

Corporate parenting

Northumberland has had the largest reduction in the average number of weeks a care application takes to complete – falling from an average of 70 weeks in 2011/12 to 42 weeks in 2013/14. Nonetheless, care proceedings in the county still take longer on average than the regional and national averages.

At 31 March 2013, Northumberland had 3,153 children in need. By head of population, this proportion (516.1) is significantly higher than either the equivalents for the North East (452.2) or England (3332.2). In contrast, Northumberland has the lowest rate of looked after children (52) when compared to the regional (80) and national averages (60).

Preventing isolation

Northumberland, when compared to the region or the country, has the highest proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support.

Public Health

Whilst the percentage of people participating in 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport fluctuates a little, broadly a third of the population are active. The prevalence of child obesity in Northumberland (17.2%) is lower than both the regional (20.9%) and national (18.9%) averages.

The rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related harm remains relatively high at 2,474 per 100,000 population.

The need to make savings of more than £44m over the next two years comes at a time when the Council is coming under increasing pressure to provide or enable essential statutory services for adults and children where demand continues to grow.

However, we have to work with the money we're given and despite these challenges ambitious investment is planned, totalling more than £350 million in the future of the County. This forms part of the authority's long term economic plan to boost employment, economic opportunities and support frontline services across Northumberland, regardless of geography.

This investment includes new social housing, funding towards a scheme to reopen the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne railway line and investments in improved education, including more than £12m towards the complete rebuild of three schools.

CORPORATE PLAN 2013 TO 2017: State of Northumberland Digest for Year One

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Overarching Aim - To promote a more prosperous county through sustainable economic growth that provides residents with ready access to high wage and skilled jobs and opportunities to create thriving businesses

	Most recent data			Percentage change since previous period		
	N'land	Region	England	N'land	Region	England
Primary Outcome - Maintain high and stable levels of economic growth						
Gross Value Added (GVA) per head of population	£12,049	£16,091	£21,937	0.6%	1.4%	1.1%
Maintain high and stable levels of quality employment						
1 Proportion of people of working age who are in work (employment rate)	74.1%	67.3%	71.9%	-2.1%	1.2%	1.1%
2 Proportion of people of working age who work part-time	28.8%	25.6%	25.3%	1.1%	-4.5%	-1.2%
3 Unemployment Rate	7.2%	9.8%	7.1%	1.4%	-2.0%	-9.0%
4 Average annual earnings (gross) for all employees	£22,760	£24,084	£27,376	-2.6%	1.3%	2.1%
Strengthen and diversify the County's business base						
5 Percentage change in the total number of VAT registered businesses	0.5%	1.1%	1.4%	n/a	n/a	n/a
6 Business Births	910	7,265	239,975	2.2%	3.0%	2.8%
7 Proportion of Business Start-ups per 10,000 resident population aged 16+	29	28	45	2.2%	2.8%	3.2%
8 Proportion of jobs by sector	*	*	*	*	*	*
Equip residents with the skills to fulfil their economic potential						
9 Percentage of people at age 19 with level 2 qualifications (e.g. 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above)	85%	84%	85%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
10 Percentage of population aged 16-64 qualified to at least:						
Level 2 or higher	73.2%	70.4%	72.5%	0.4%	2.5%	1.0%
Level 3 or higher	54.4%	51.7%	55.6%	5.0%	3.8%	1.3%
Level 4 or higher	30.7%	28.1%	35.0%	5.9%	4.5%	2.3%
11 Percentage of population aged 16-64 with no qualifications	7.2%	10.7%	9.1%	-16.3%	-9.3%	-4.2%
12 Percentage of pupils who achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	55.0%	59.4%	60.6%	-5.5%	1.5%	3.1%
13 Number of new apprenticeships	4,410	35,870	504,200	-2.2%	-6.4%	-2.1%
Improve the quality and range of the County's connectivity						
14 Principal roads where maintenance should be considered	3%	n/a	n/a	-25%	n/a	n/a
15 Percentage of people aged 16+ who have never used the internet	15.9%	14.3%	11.9%	22.3%	-14.9%	-9.1%
16 Percentage of premises with access to superfast broadband	49.6%	n/a	n/a	35.9%	n/a	n/a

* See full spreadsheet of data - data too large to include in table

STRONGER COMMUNITIES & FAMILIES

Overarching Aim - To ensure that all residents genuinely feel safe, belong, and have a say in how the county is run, and to provide a range of quality community and cultural services and facilities which inspire creativity and participation

	Most recent data			Percentage change since previous period		
	N'land	Region	England	N'land	Region	England
Primary Outcome - Empower residents to have a say in their community						
Percentage of residents who feel they can influence local decisions	27%	n/a	n/a	-3.6%	n/a	n/a
Maintain low levels of crime and disorder						
1 Percentage of residents who think crime is a big problem in their area	7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2 Recorded crime for key offences*						
Total Recorded Crime (including fraud)	10,352	141,857	3,281,838	3.8%	3.4%	-3.0%
Offences per 1,000 population	32.7	52.7	63.3	3.5%	0.3%	0.7%
3 Incidents of Anti-social behaviour (rate per 1,000 population)	41.9	57.0	37.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Encourage residents to get involved and volunteer						
4 Percentage of residents who agree that local people pull together to improve things locally	45%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5 Percentage of residents involved in formal volunteering	26%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Reduce the prevalence of poverty and deprivation						
6 Worklessness - Percentage of the working age population who are claiming key benefits	14.0%	17.6%	12.9%	-7.3%	-6.4%	-6.5%
7 The proportion of the population who live in LSOA's in the most deprived 10% and 25% of LSOA's in the country						
10%	8.1%	16.5%	9.8%	9.7%	-5.4%	-1.4%
25%	21.6%	38.4%	24.7%	2.5%	-5.6%	-0.3%
8 Proportion of children in poverty (aged 0-18)**	16.9%	22.1%	17.0%	-2.3%	-3.9%	-5.6%
9 Fuel Poverty (% of households fuel poor)	11.8%	11.6%	10.4%	-7.1%	-6.5%	-4.5%
Provide targeted support to our most troubled families						
10 Percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)	5.3%	7.6%	5.3%	3.9%	-8.4%	-8.6%
11 Teenage conception rate (under 18)	28.4	35.5	27.7	-12.6%	-7.6%	-9.8%
12 Repeat incidence of domestic violence	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* See full Stronger and Communities worksheet for full breakdown by type of offence

** For other age breakdowns see the full Stronger Communities worksheet

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Overarching Aim - To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to lead healthy, independent lives for as long as possible and to safeguard our most vulnerable residents in a way that maintains their dignity and confidence

	Most recent data			Percentage change since previous period				
	N'land	Region	England	N'land	Region	England		
Primary Outcome - Improve the overall health and wellbeing of the county's population								
Healthy Life Expectancy at birth								
Male	62.7	59.5	63.4	1.0%	-0.4%	0.3%		
Female	62.5	60.1	64.1	0.7%	-0.2%	-0.2%		
Equip residents to live independently for as long as possible								
1	Proportion of people who use social care services who have control over their daily lives (all people)*		79.0	78.5	76.7	1.0%	2.2%	-1.1%
2	Proportion of adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities who live in their own home or with their family		80.2	80.8	74.8	1.0%	4.2%	2.4%
Protect the county's children and young people from harm								
3	The average length of care proceedings (weeks)		42	34	37	-26.3%	-26.0%	-22.9%
4	Number and Rate (per 10,000 children) of children in need		3,153	23,700	378,600	11.8%	2.6%	2.5%
			516	452	332	12.2%	2.8%	2.0%
5	Number and rate (per 10,000 children) of looked after children.		315	4,220	68,110	12.5%	2.7%	1.5%
			52	80	60	15.6%	2.6%	1.7%
6	Rate of permanent exclusions from school (proportion of the school population)		0.05%	0.05%	0.06%	x	400%	200%
Promote the social inclusion of older and vulnerable people								
7	Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support		77.8	60.6	62.1	8.1%	16.5%	10.5%
8	Older people in deprivation (% of the population aged 60+ income deprived)		15.9%	23.1%	18.1%	-4.2%	20.3%	-9.5%
Encourage residents to adopt healthy lifestyles								
9	Prevalence of breast feeding at 6-8 weeks from birth		37.1%	31.8%	45.8%	5.7%	1.9%	-3.0%
10	Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6		17.2%	20.9%	18.9%	-9.9%	-5.4%	-1.6%
11	Adult participation in sport and active recreation		33.6%	34.4%	35.5%	4.1%	-0.7%	-0.4%
12	Rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related harm (admissions per 100,000 population)		2,474	2,597	1,886	-10.6%	-17.7%	-17.9%

* For other age and sex breakdowns see the full Health & Wellbeing Worksheet

x - Data for previous year is less than 5 so data suppressed.

PLACES & ENVIRONMENT

Overarching Aim - To maintain and further improve the quality of our towns, villages and countryside, and make it easier for residents to access services and high quality, affordable homes and to travel using different modes of transport

		Most recent data			Percentage change since previous period		
		N'land	Region	England	N'land	Region	England
Primary Outcome - Maintain and improve the quality of the county's environment							
Percentage of residents who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live		75%	n/a	n/a	-7.4	n/a	n/a
Manage the prudent use of the county's natural resources							
1	Emissions of greenhouse gases per person (tonnes of CO2 per person)	2.57	2.26	2.18	9.6%	10.3%	9.7%
2	Domestic Energy use (thousand tonnes of oil equivalent per 100,000 pop)	74.6	68.8	63.2	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.6%
3	Percentage of waste recycled or composted	40.2%	37.0%	43.2%	-1.5%	-2.4%	0.5%
Improve the vitality of the county's network of market towns							
4	High street vacancy rate (% of commercial premises vacant)						
	Northumberland	6.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Alnwick	5.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Amble	2.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Ashington	6.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Bedlington	3.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Berwick	8.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Blyth	8.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cramlington	9.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Haltwhistle	7.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hexham	7.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Morpeth	4.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Ponteland	7.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Prudhoe	3.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5	New business start ups in market towns						
	Northumberland	2,055	n/a	n/a	-13.1%	n/a	n/a
	Alnwick	36			-5.3%		
	Amble	80			9.6%		
	Ashington	155			-1.3%		
	Bedlington	83			-21.0%		
	Berwick	96			12.9%		
	Blyth	175			-4.9%		
	Cramlington	176			-1.1%		
	Haltwhistle	22			10.0%		
	Hexham	90			-36.2%		
	Morpeth	92			-22.7%		
	Ponteland	151			-10.1%		
	Prudhoe	59			3.5%		
Provide residents with access to quality housing they can afford							
6	Average house price / Affordability Ratio						
	Average House Price	£172,339	£141,008	£251,231	4.4%	1.5%	3.9%
	Affordability Ratio	5.1	n/a	6.5	-4.6%	n/a	-1.9%
7	Homeless Households (rate per 1,000 households)	1.32	1.33	2.32	-19.5%	-12.8%	-3.7%
8	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	120	1,870	42,860	-20.0%	8.1%	-26.2%
Make it more attractive for residents to use the bus, walk or cycle.							
9	Percentage of working age people with access to employment by public transport	78.0%	81.1%	81.4%	1.4%	-0.7%	-0.8%
10	Percentage of children within a reasonable travelling time by public transport or walking of a primary or secondary school.						
	Primary School	37.5%	44.3%	43.7%	-31.2%	-23.6%	-24.4%
	Secondary School	52.1%	52.2%	49.5%	-2.3%	0.0	-1.5%
11	% of residents aged 16+ who do any walking or cycling	88.4%	85.2%	87.1%	-0.7%	-5.3%	-4.3%