

## EU ASSISTED AREA STATUS MAP

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Elaine Woodburn  
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### WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

(eg Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council, etc.)

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS: To note the inclusion of wards in Copeland within the EU Assisted Areas Status Map</b>
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Assisted Area status is a European designation that permits specific geographical (less economically advantaged) areas in Member states to access financial support. This support primarily encourages business growth, principally around the manufacturing sector which can positively affect these locations and the whole UK economy.
- 1.2 Assisted Area status offers eligibility for regional aid, but does not in itself confer any funding. Regional aid is one of many forms of state aid used by the Government to support UK businesses, and all other forms of financial support can be granted both inside and outside of Assisted Areas.

## 2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The Government has reviewed the Assisted Areas Order that came into force in 2007, in response to the 2014-2020 Regional Aid Guidelines issued by the European Commission. The Government has carried out an extensive consultation process to develop the revised Map, for which local leaders and business have provided local intelligence. These contributions have proved invaluable when developing the final 2014-2020 Assisted Areas Map.
- 2.2 The final Assisted Areas Map will help deliver the desired UK policy of encouraging growth in less economically advantaged areas and central Government appear confident that it represents a balanced, evidence-based approach to allocating the UK's population coverage.

- 2.3 After much discussion and debate across the County, and working with challenging rules set by the EU, within Copeland, 24 from 25 wards have been included within the assisted area map, the only exclusion being the Ennerdale Ward. This now enables new and existing business to apply for additional financial support to develop and grow. Assisted Area status offers eligibility for regional aid, but does not in itself confer any funding.
- 2.4 This status supports our growth plans both across the Borough and around the Centre of Nuclear Excellence and supply chain development, as well as enabling growth and jobs in our rural areas.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 A lot of hard work has been carried out by the Local Enterprise Partnership and Copeland Borough Council to ensure as many wards as possible are included with in the assisted area. This hard work has paid off with the inclusion of 24 of our wards. Business must now be encouraged to bid for funding and receive the benefit of this status.

#### **5. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS**

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: No Comment
- 5.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: No Further Comment
- 5.3 EIA Comments: No Comment
- 5.4 Policy Framework; No Comment
- 5.5 Other consultee comments, if any: None

#### **List of Appendices**

None

#### **List of Background Documents:**

**Assisted Area Map of the UK**