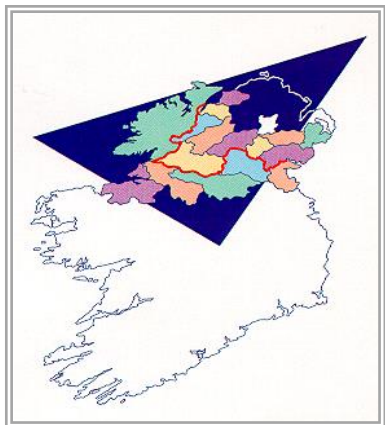


**“Local Authority led cross border networks:
Vital partnerships across the Irl/NI border”**

**Pamela Arthurs
Chief Executive EBR**

10th October 2018

Northern Ireland Office, Brussels

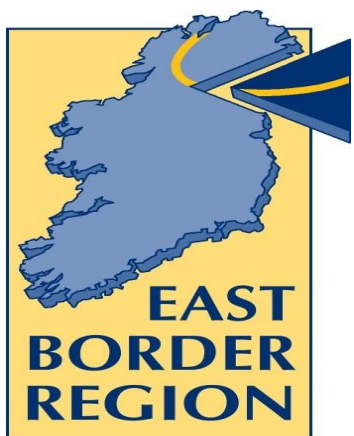
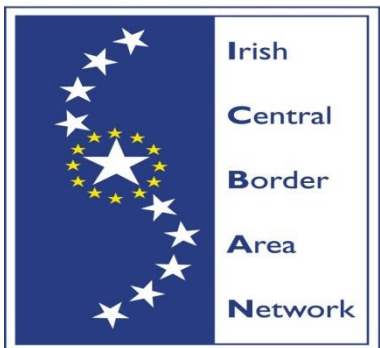


Local Authority networks

Who: Local Authorities Irl/NI border collaborating – mutual benefit

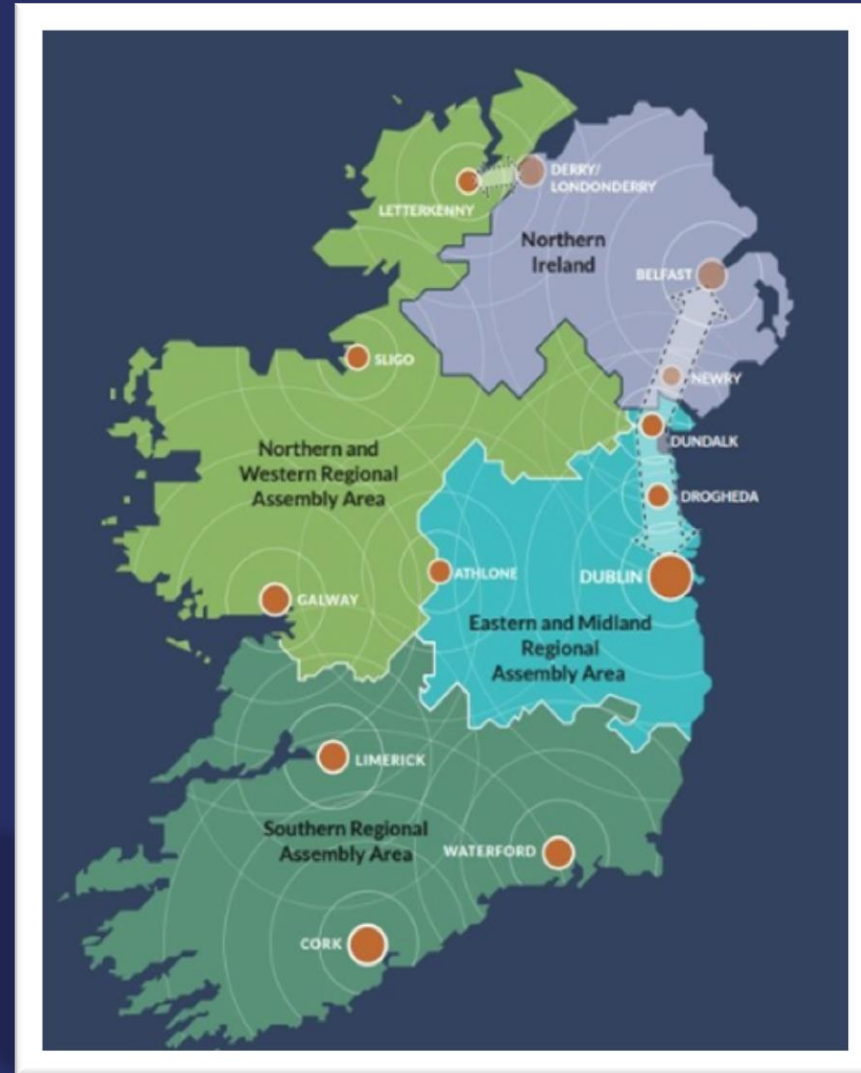
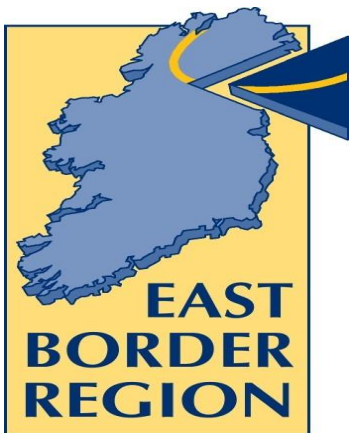
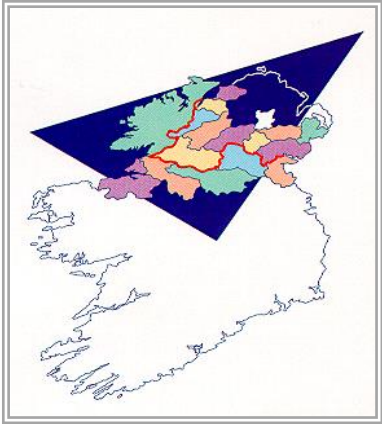
Make up:

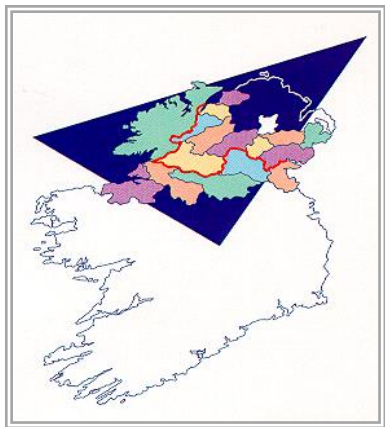
1. Elected members all political parties
2. Senior officials all Local Authorities



Result: Significant EU/Non EU investment in the Ireland/N Ireland border area contributing to the modernisation of the Border Corridor

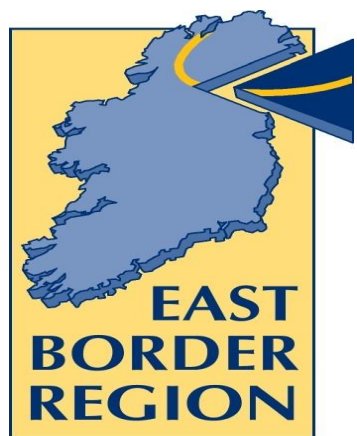
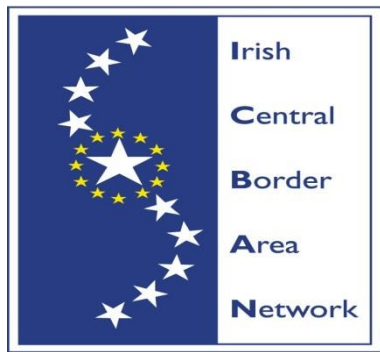
East Border Region



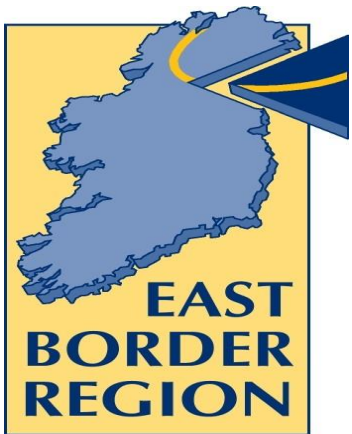
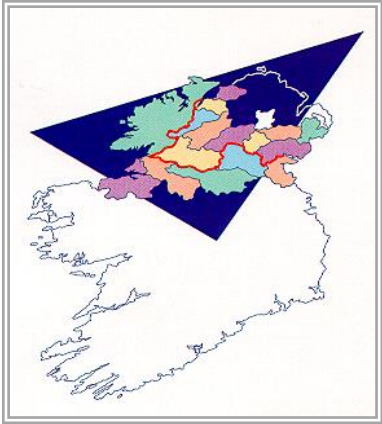


Border Corridor 1970's

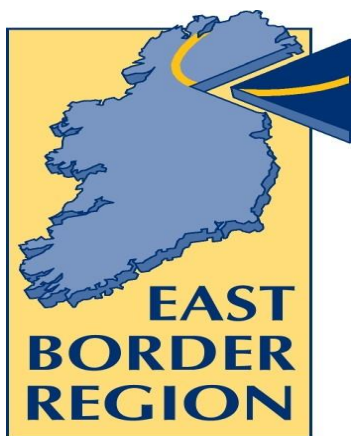
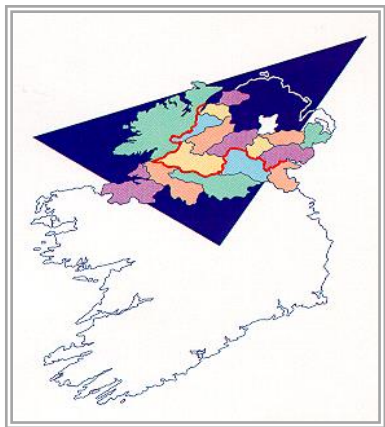
“ Back in the early 1970's there was literally no cooperation at any level, political or otherwise, between Local Authorities adjacent to the border. I didn't know any of the councillors in Omeath (ROI) despite the fact that I could look out my front door and see Omeath. It simply wasn't the done thing”



Cllr Jim Mc Cart



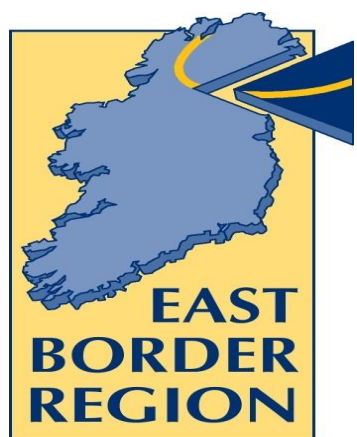
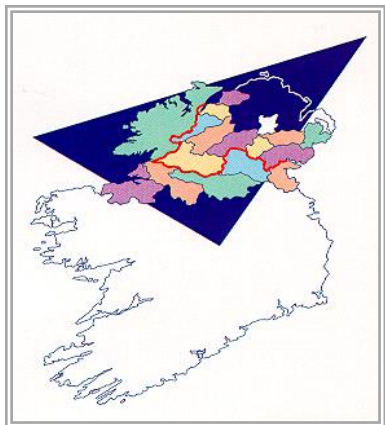
Warrenpoint - Omeath



East Border Region: 1976

“Before the inception of East Border Region none of us even thought of working on a cross border basis, which when you think about it, really does make sound economic and community sense.”

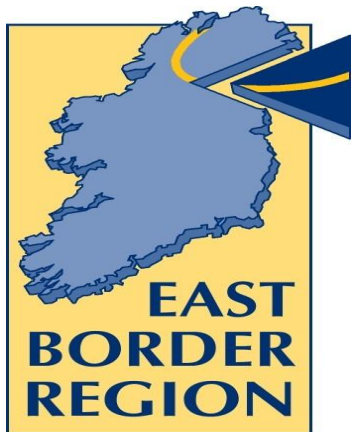
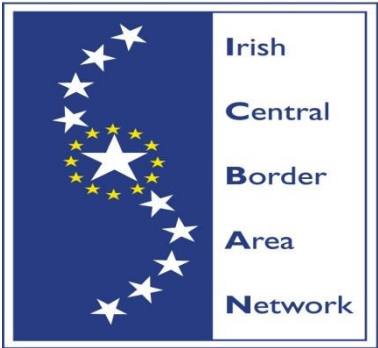
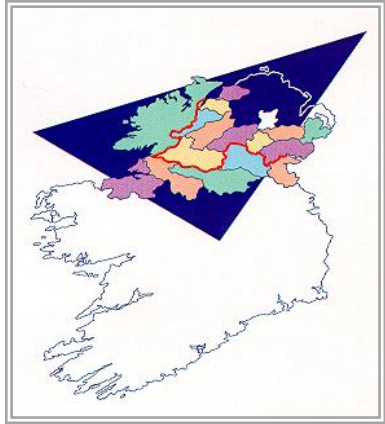
Cllr Jim Mc Cart



2006

“ I thought of the EBR as the ‘buckle or fastener which consolidated relationships north and south along the border. I observed the benefits it was bringing, breaking down traditions, changing opinions, bringing people of different cultures together over the years and I felt that any investment in EBR was a good investment”

John Quinlivan, Chief Executive
Louth County Council
1988-2003



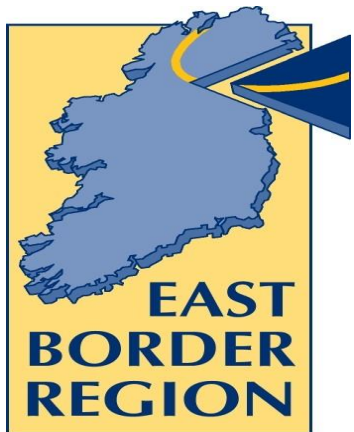
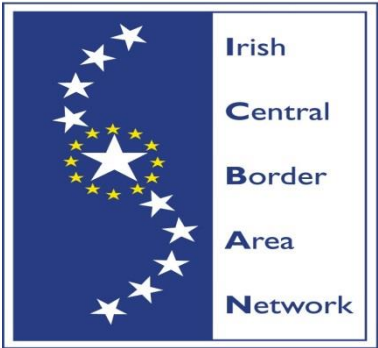
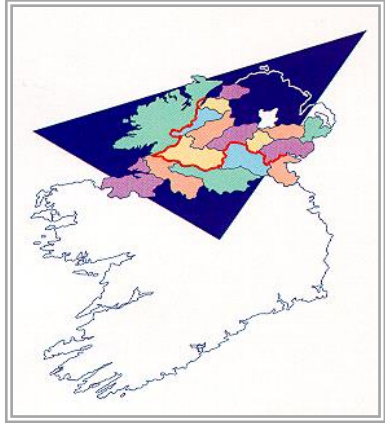
European Union:

- A positive policy prospectus which for the first time in 70 years favoured border regions
- Substantial funding for border areas INTERREG
- Unique Peace Programme IRL/NI
- Cross Border networks ideally placed to benefit
- EU prerequisite – inclusive partnerships.

“ a stakeholder in the border region’s regeneration ”

European Union

Cross Border networks



Administered €millions INTERREG monies.

- Infrastructure
- Tourism
- Energy
- Economic Development

'bottom up approach' 'open and transparent'

Elected members, Business, Community, voluntary working in partnership.

Elected member strength - Lobbying Power

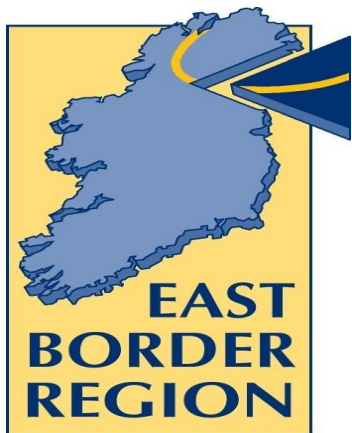
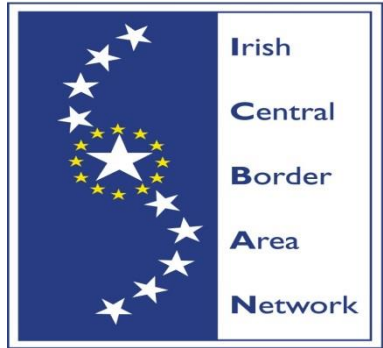
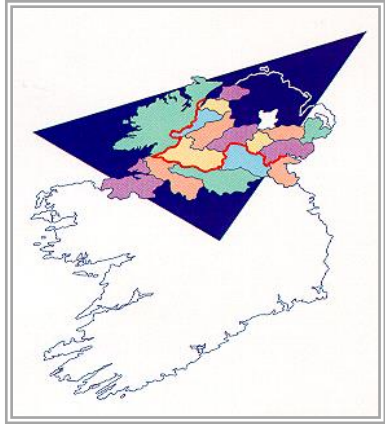
Collectively – very strong message! Heard in

Brussels

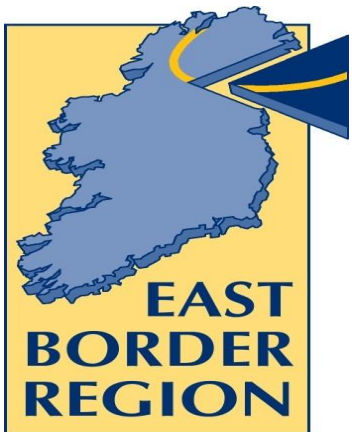
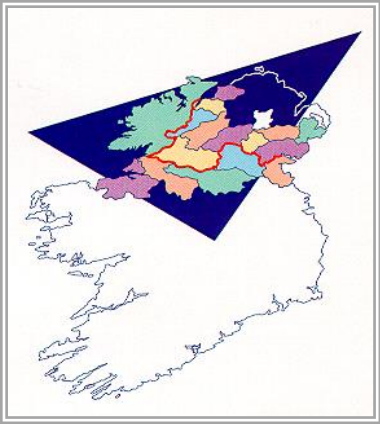
Ireland

N Ireland

A1/NI Belfast-Dublin/NewryDundalk dual carriageway

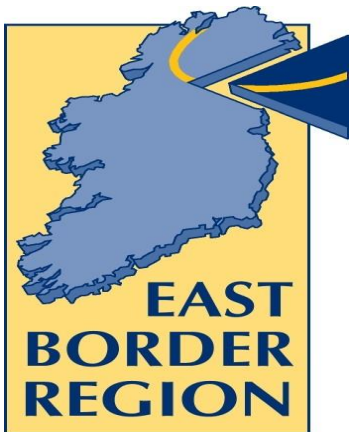
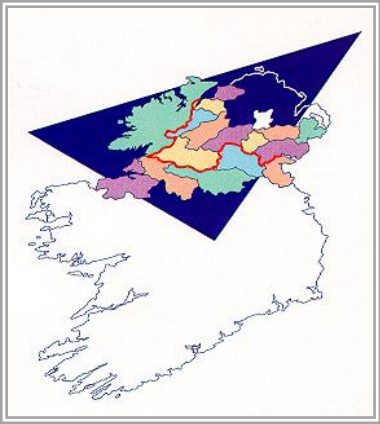


Official Opening 2007

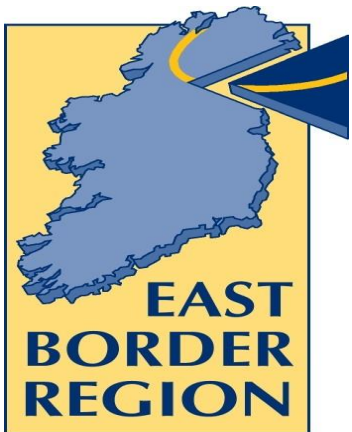
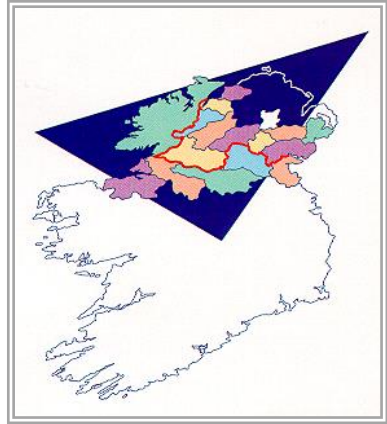


Newry – Dundalk Road

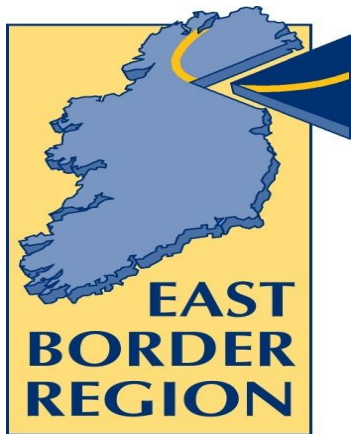
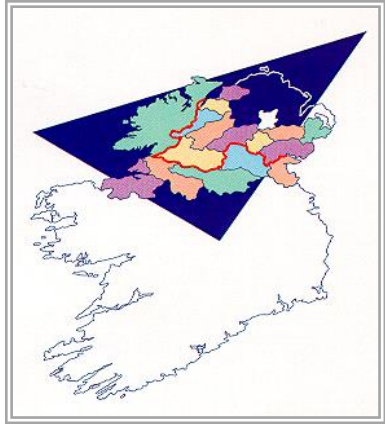
Improved north/south rail link

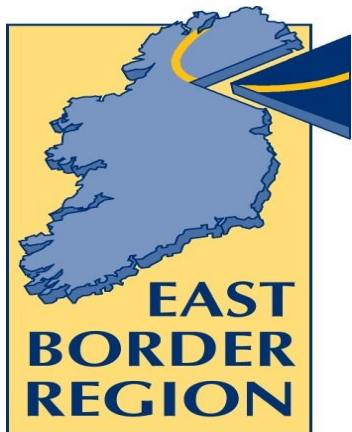
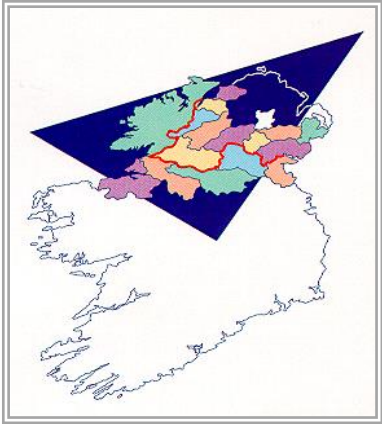


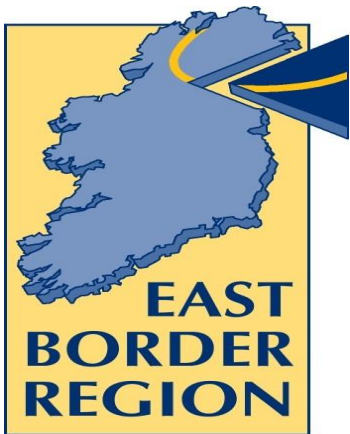
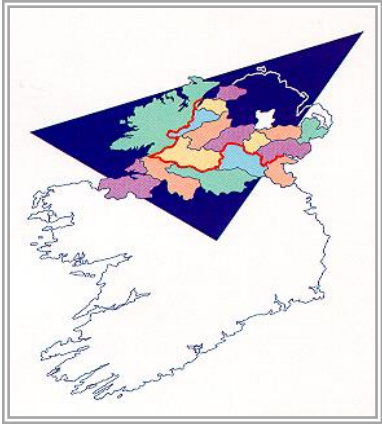
NEWRY TRAIN STATION

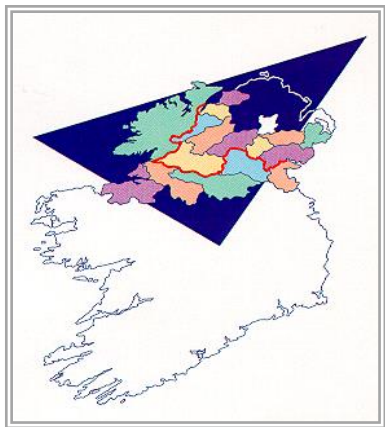


Opened 2009





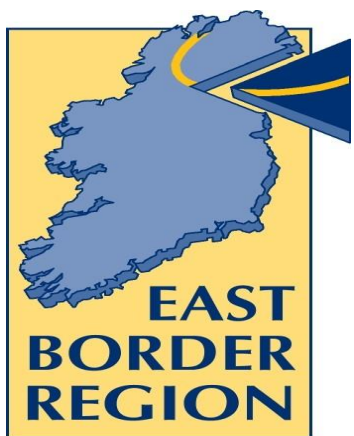




Local Authority led Cross Border networks

Cross border cooperation

- 1970's Baseline zero:
- 2016 Extensive cross border partnerships:
- All sectors. Local, Regional, National
- European Union support. Financial/ Non Financial
- Capacity/Trust developed - stake holders



“EBR is an indispensable link in the Europe wide network of AEBC. This cross border cooperation has contributed to the remarkable positive economic and social development in Ire/N Ireland ..and created verifiable added value”

Jens Gabbe: AEBC

Local Authority Led networks Vital?

Brexit. Uncertainty! Solutions are required

- Local government can rise to the challenge
- Inclusive Partnership approach which is open and transparent
- Local Authorities – duty of care to citizens
- Long track record working with key stakeholders across border
- Well placed to deliver real results on the ground.

