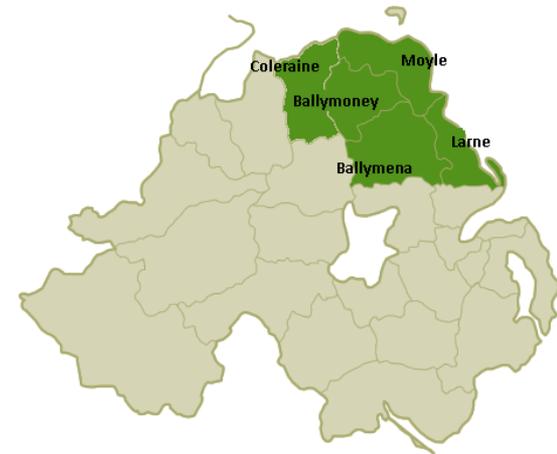


# North East Region Rural Development Partnership

- Based in the Island of Ireland, but part of the UK
- LAG has 30 members-councillors and social partners
- LAG administered by local councils (5)
- there is 15 person Council led ratifying body
- established 2009, but Leader in area since 1993
- overall budget £13million (Euro 15million)
- 8 staff, 1 central office
- Main areas of activity are
  - farm diversification,
  - supporting small business,
  - tourism development,
  - supporting villages and basic community services



# Who are we?

## Region

- the North East of Northern Ireland
- covers the council areas of Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Larne and Moyle
- rural population approximately 95,000
- a geographical area of about 2,300 sq km
- an extensive coastline with Scotland
- predominantly rural; settlement pattern: small villages serving as local hubs
- principal businesses in the rural areas
  - agriculture -sheep farming in the uplands area and beef and dairy cattle in the lowland areas
  - tourism with the Giants Causeway being a World Heritage Centre attracting over 800,000 visitors (2010)
  - the two main towns are important retail and service centres with some manufacturing; Larne is the main ferry terminal between Northern Ireland and Scotland.
- LAG programme aims to sustain and regenerate the local villages and the services that are provided for our rural communities.

# Innovative Villages

## Key interests in Innovative Village

- *Study of what are the minimum level of services required to maintain and develop vibrant rural areas” as a joint action*
- *Identify “what are the key services?”*
- *Look at best practice models in other parts of the EU*
- *Involve local communities in understanding their service needs*
- *Look at how to integrate services in a “one stop facility “*
- *Look at how to involve a range of government and local municipality providers in service provision*
- *Build partnerships between the various LAGs and complementary groups*
- *Make project relevant and enjoyable*