

Peck, Frank ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1976-154X> (2016) What next for regional policy? In Cumbria Magazine, 2016 (July). p. 17.

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/3693/>

***Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria's institutional repository 'Insight' must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.***

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria's institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available [here](#)) for educational and not-for-profit activities

**provided that**

- the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form
  - a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work
- the content is not changed in any way
- all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

**You may not**

- sell any part of an item
- refer to any part of an item without citation
- amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator's reputation
- remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found [here](#).

Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing [insight@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:insight@cumbria.ac.uk).

# What next for regional policy?



**Professor Frank Peck** of the University of Cumbria's Centre for Regional Economic Development writes for in-Cumbria on the big issues of the day and the economic data behind them. This month, post-Brexit, what will happen to Cumbria's regional development funding in future?

We now know that by a small majority, the British electorate has voted to leave the EU. In Cumbria, the vote was slightly more emphatic than average. In Carlisle, Copeland and Barrow in particular, the majority in favour of leave was over 60 per cent.

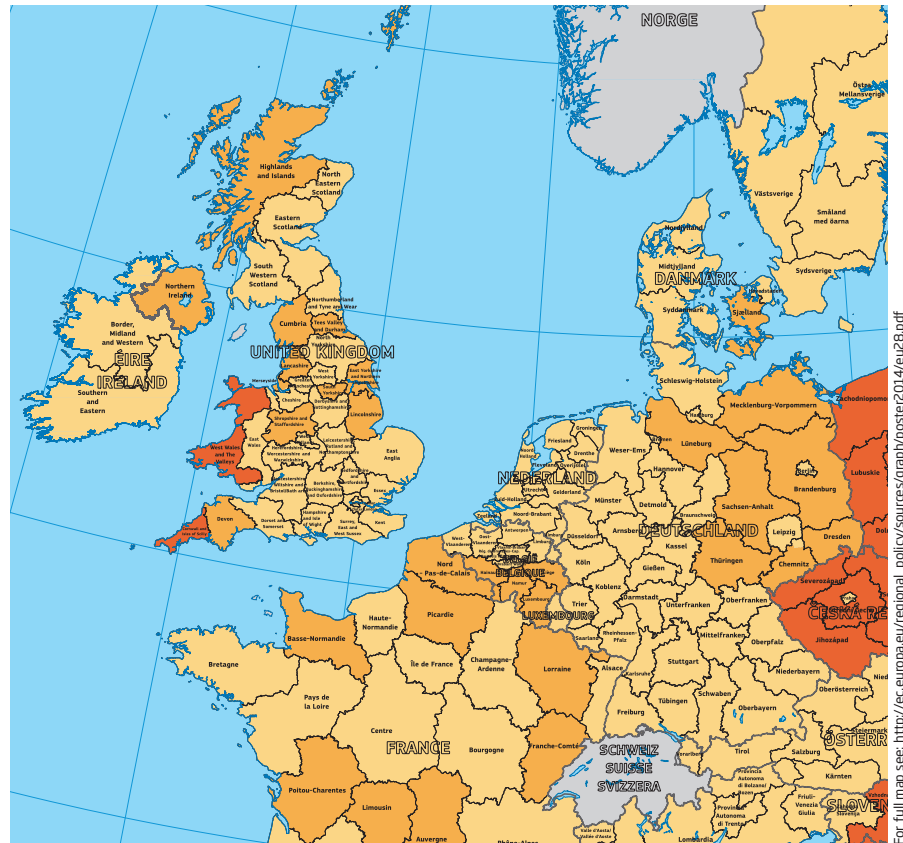
The nation as a whole is now coming to terms with the consequences across a huge range of policies affecting the economy, society and the environment. If you are not sure what this might mean, have a look at the range of EU policies at [http://ec.europa.eu/policies/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/policies/index_en.htm). The list is extensive.

In terms of the economy alone, it affects agriculture, fisheries, enterprise, competition, mergers, monopolies, procurement, science, technology, innovation, sector development, R&D, employment, skills, transport, tourism... The list goes on, and includes public policy towards "regions and local development".

We are currently in the 2014-2020 phase of regional development funding from the EU and strategies are already in place to determine how to meet the priorities of EU Regional Policy which include coordinated investment in strategic transport and communications infrastructure, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), creation of new and lasting job opportunities and building a more inclusive society.

EU policy documents make clear that the role of EU funding is to invite co-finance from respective national budgets to encourage national governments to invest resources in disadvantaged regions.

In the current phase of spending, Cumbria was planning to benefit from such an approach as a "transition region" where Gross Domestic Product per head is



## EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS ELIGIBILITY 2014-2020

<span style="color: red;">■</span> <b>Less developed regions</b> (GDP/head less than 75% of EU-27 average)	<b>€182.2bn</b>
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> <b>Transition regions</b> (GDP/head between 75% and 90% of EU-27 average)	<b>€35.4bn</b>
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <b>More developed regions</b> (GDP/head greater than 90% of EU-27 average)	<b>€54.3bn</b>

between 75 and 90 per cent of the EU average, and therefore receives investment from European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund. The map above shows Cumbria shares this status with 10 other UK regions, with West Wales and the Valleys, and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, having less developed status.

Cumbria's European Structural and Investment Plan Strategy document (see the Cumbria LEP website) shows £78m of EU regional development funding planned for 2014-2020.

So, what is to become of UK Regional Policy after Brexit? In the midst of complex negotiations and multiple policy re-think in Whitehall, will a systematic UK approach to investment that ensures balanced spatial development emerge?

Free from the levers applied by Brussels, how will UK government respond to the need to address economic and social inequality between the constituent UK nations and the various regions of England? And how will this impact on levels of public and private investment in Cumbria? This is just one of many significant areas of policy debate that will need to be faced in the years ahead. [ic](#)

**'Free from the levers of Brussels, how will UK government respond to the need to address economic and social inequality between the UK nations and the various regions of England?'**