

A note from Northumberland...

Northumberland is the most northerly county in the country, primarily rural, with one of the lowest population densities in England and a significantly ageing population. The Coronavirus pandemic is particularly challenging for us, as it is all over the country.

We are a Conservative-led administration and rightly proud of our fantastic communities, our fiercely proud and resilient people and the sense of good will and friendship that echoes from every corner of our county.

We quickly established **Northumberland Communities Together** as a hub at our County Hall at the very outset and we have successfully brought together thousands of volunteers including a large proportion of our own staff, who are now part of smaller help groups right across the county. Our voluntary and community sector is truly amazing.

We have a central number and website for advice and support and a team of well trained staff triaging calls. We're shopping, collecting and delivering prescriptions, supporting shielded groups with extra food parcels, organising transport to vital hospital appointments, helping those facing financial uncertainty, making friendship calls and providing business and community advice, grant funding and support.

This is whilst still of course maintaining and delivering front line council services where possible and working on how we can best recover from this situation as a County, when the time comes. **Together, we know we can beat this.**

Here we are delivering food parcels and donations of Easter eggs over the Easter weekend:



Stay safe everyone.

Cllr Peter Jackson,
Leader, Northumberland County Council.