

# 1 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND 2007-2013

The Rural Development Programme for England 2007 – 2013 is submitted by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas



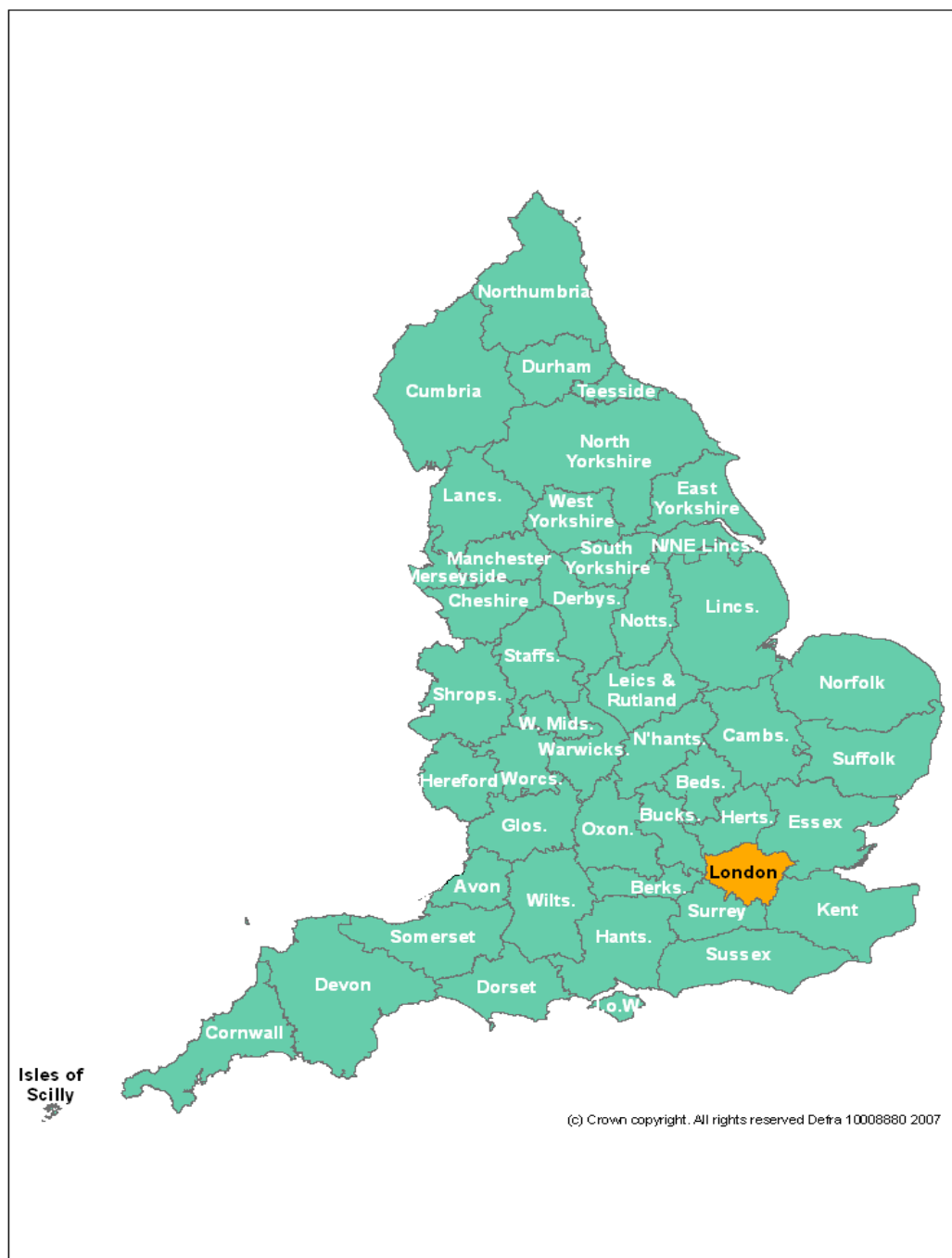
# MEMBER STATE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

## 1.1 Geographical area covered

1. This is the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013. It is one of four such programmes prepared for the four constituent regions of the United Kingdom by the four departments with responsibility for agriculture and rural affairs. The other programmes cover Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
2. This chapter of the Programme document provides information on the administrative structures and organisations with responsibilities in rural areas in England, and identifies the Convergence Regions.

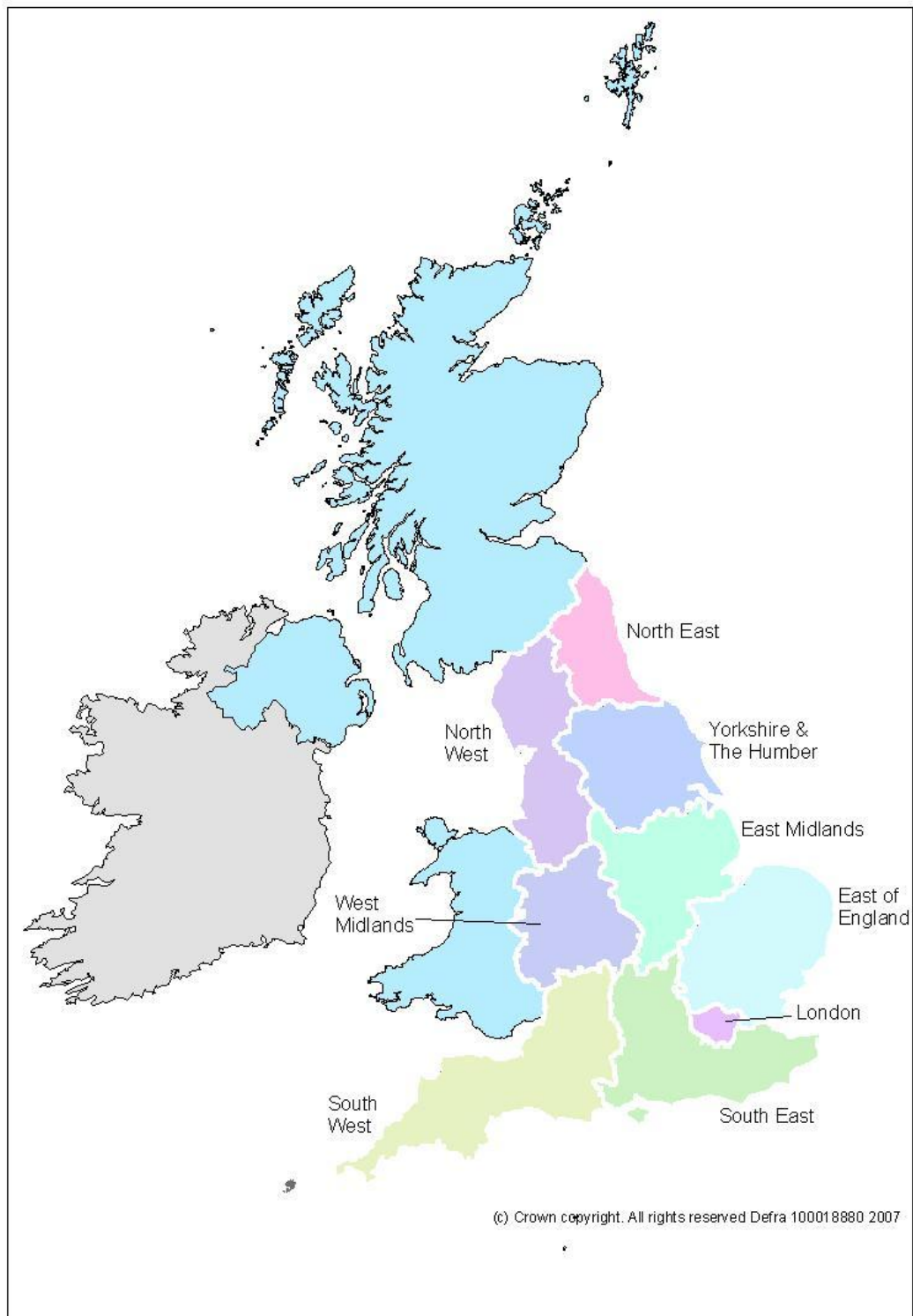
### Local Government

3. Local government in England is structured in two distinct ways. In parts of England, a single tier "all-purpose council" is responsible for all local authority functions. The remainder of England has a two-tier system, in which the responsibilities are divided between county and district councils. There are typically five or six districts in each county, although a few have more.
4. There are 47 Unitary Authorities in England, 36 Metropolitan Authorities, 34 County Councils, and 238 District Councils.
5. Local authorities provide a range of services and enforce a number of regulations. For example, local authorities deliver municipal waste services, improve the local environment, regulate animal health and welfare, provide many services to rural communities (such as education, social care and support for public transport), manage local nature reserves and access to the countryside, and seek to prevent, and mitigate, the impact of civil emergencies e.g. animal disease or floods.
6. The map below shows county areas and the major metropolitan areas in England.



### Regional Administration

7. There are nine administrative regions within England, each of which, with the exception of London, contains significant rural areas. Regional administrative structures relevant to the Rural Development Regulation include the regional arms of major national agencies such as Natural England and the Forestry Commission and the regional Defra RDPE Delivery Teams. The map below shows the nine England regions.



## Natural England

8. Natural England was established in 2006 by bringing together parts of three existing, delivery bodies in England: English Nature, the landscape, access and recreation elements of the Countryside Agency and the environmental land management functions of the Rural Development Service. It is a national organisation, covering England, with regional offices that match the boundaries of the nine English regions as shown above.

9. Natural England's general purpose, as set out in the founding legislation, is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

10. Natural England is responsible for the delivery of agri-environment schemes and the Energy Crops Scheme.

#### Forestry Commission

11. The Forestry Commission is the Government Department responsible for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of forests and woodlands and increasing their value to society and the environment. Its remit covers Britain, but it has different strategies for England, Scotland and Wales.

12. The Forestry Commission delivers the English Woodland Grant Scheme. It has regional offices, which match the boundaries of the nine English regions as shown above.

#### Defra

13. Defra is the Government Department responsible for England. It is also the Managing Authority for the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). It has created a Delivery Team within which are eight regional Delivery Teams for delivery of the socio-economic measures under Axes 1, 3 & 4. The regional teams match the boundaries of the English regions as shown above. London is covered by the Delivery Team (South East).

## 1.2 Identification of Convergence regions

14. Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly constitute a sub-region, which qualifies for funding in support of the Convergence objective as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006. It will receive an additional €75 million (£55 million) funding for rural development in this Programme.

### MAP OF UK SHOWING ELIGIBILITY FOR STRUCTURAL FUNDS 2007-2013

