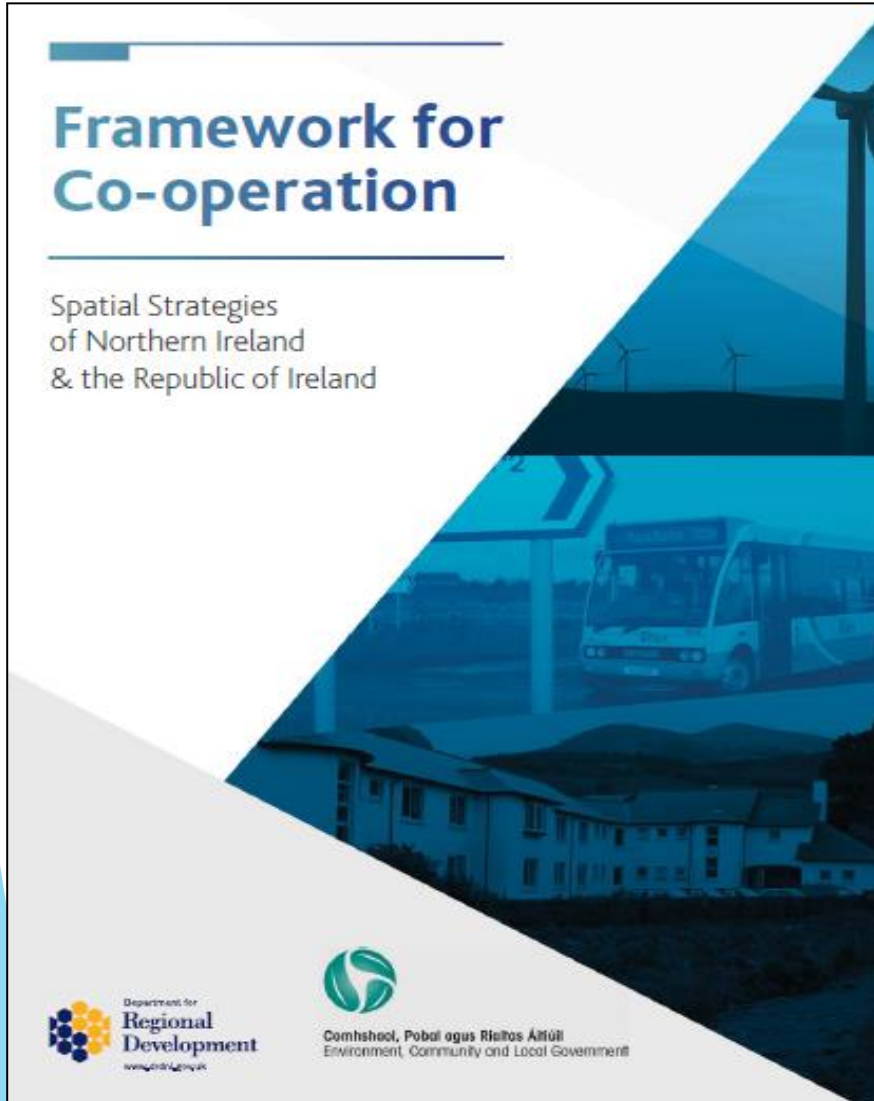# The Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region

2021-2027

Building on, and working with what we have

Why a supplement? And what are the key issues now?

Policy Fit and Alignment
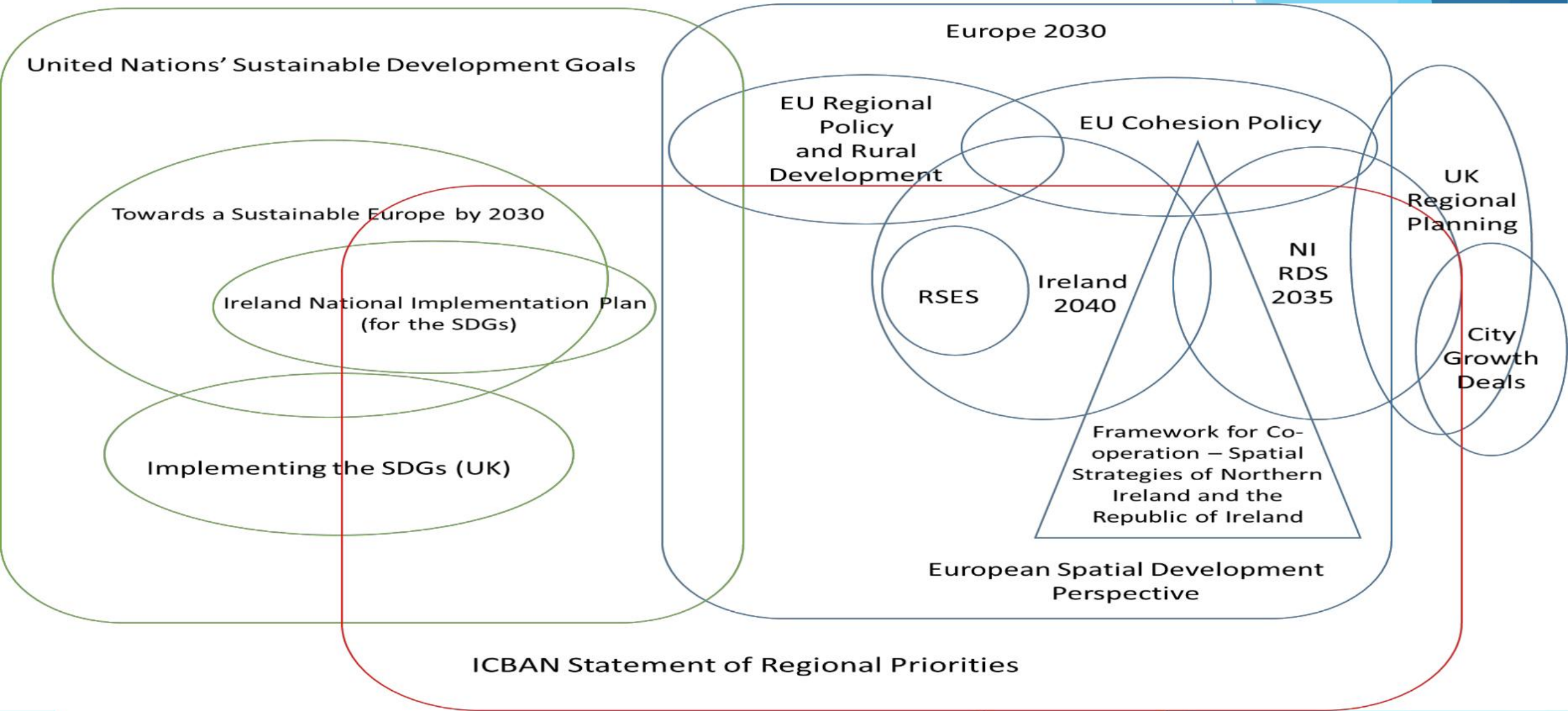
Capitalising on Place – Place-making

▶ This adds value to the work of the 8 member Councils and of both governments

▶ It sits within an international framework, to which the UK and Ireland are committed

Strategic Premise

Features

▶ Vision Statement

▶ Key Ambitions & Aims

▶ Opportunities

    ▶ Economic

    ▶ Environmental

    ▶ Socio-cultural

▶ Strategic Pillars / Themes

▶ Regional Priorities

▶ Catalyst Projects

Adapted from: Lundgren, A. (2020) 'Linking Innovation and Resilience: Synergy Effects for Regional Development' presentation to *Northern Periphery Programme Annual Conference*, 23 September 2020.
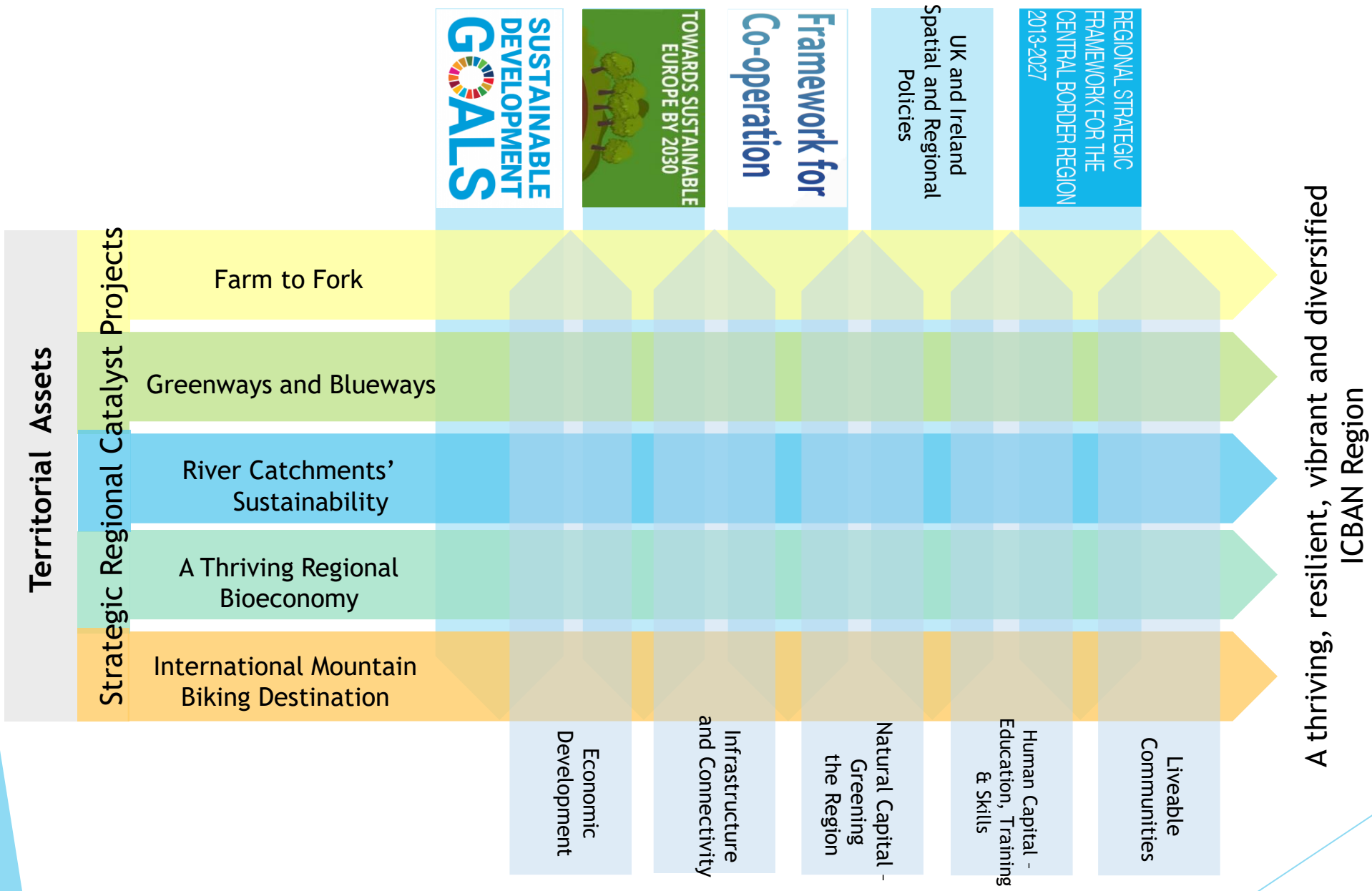
Regional Features and Strategic Assets

Economic Inter-dependency	Vibrant sectors – but narrow / traditional base	Natural assets
Aggregate critical mass (achieving and projecting)	Demographic variability	Tourism, landscape and Quality of Life

Regional Priorities

Exploiting new opportunities based on regional strengths and territorial natural assets;

Supporting economic development through adequate industrial spaces, inter-firm collaboration/innovation and links with education;

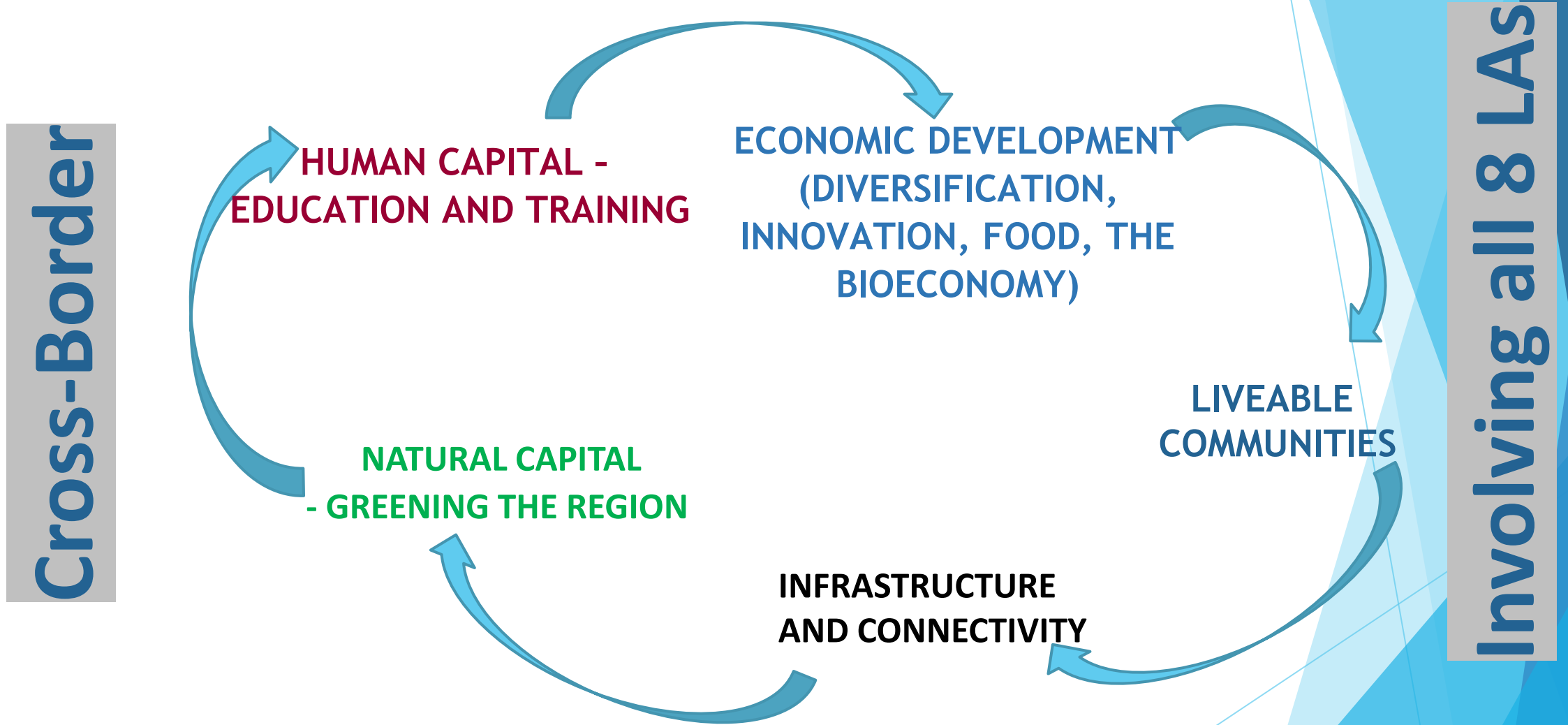**Enhancing citizens' quality of life**, through modes of service delivery, life-long progression opportunities and community amenities;

Enabling greater connected / remote working, through infrastructure and a network of digital hubs in towns and villages; and

Developing the region's tourism offering, through connected greenway and blueway networks, and improved regional connectivity.

Inter-locking Themes / Pillars for the CBR

Cross-Border

Involving all 8 LAs

HUMAN CAPITAL – EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DIVERSIFICATION, INNOVATION, FOOD, THE BIOECONOMY)

LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

NATURAL CAPITAL - GREENING THE REGION

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

Policy Trajectory

- an increased emphasis on potential (rather than deficits), soft (as well as hard) infrastructure and quality-of-life factors;

- application of economic development based on sustainable development principles and with an emphasis on community well-being;

- increased territorial differentiation (avoidance of a one-size-fits-all approach);

- greater participation by local actors;

- investments (rather than subsidies);

- more systematic institutional collaboration – including on a cross-border / inter-jurisdictional basis.
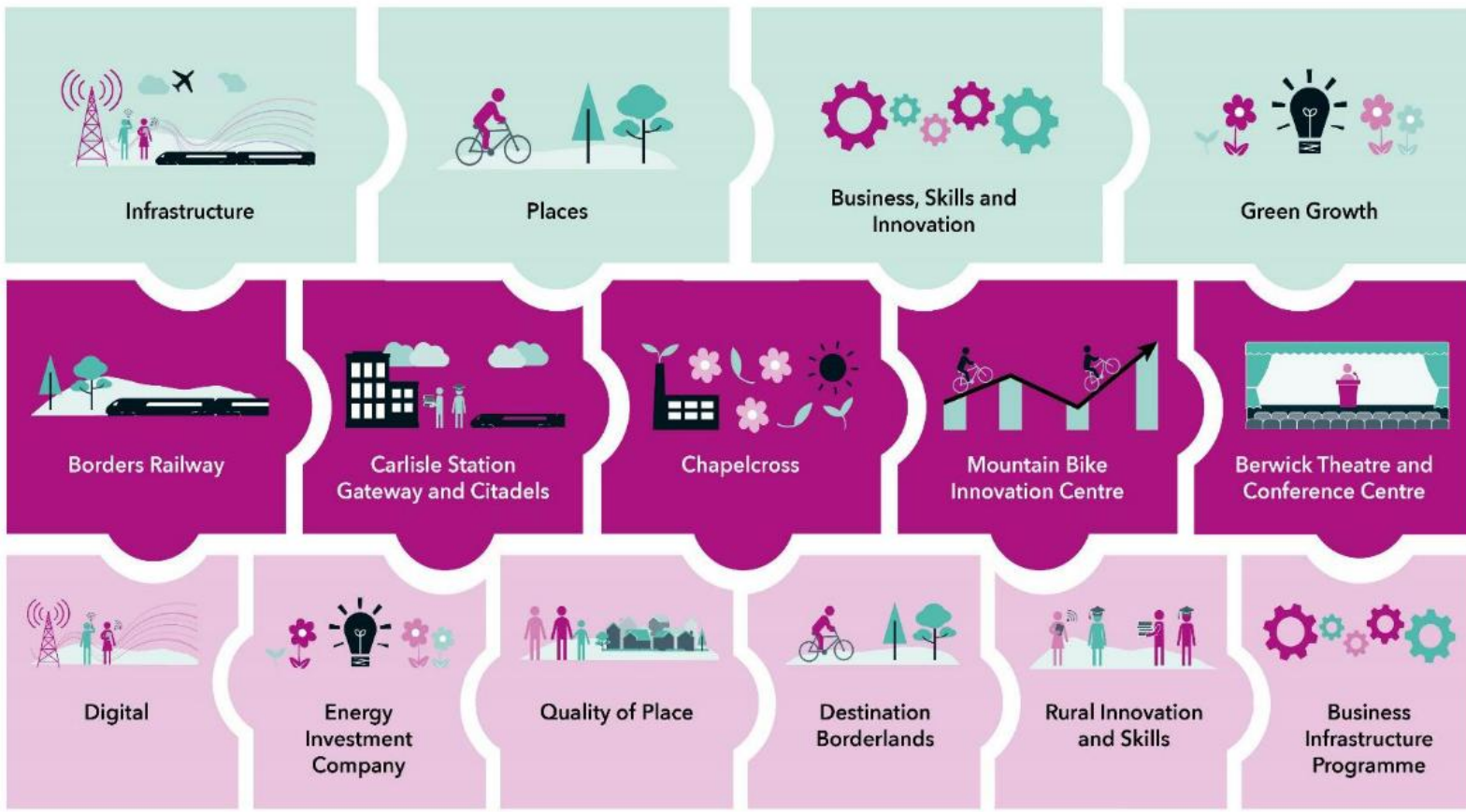
Borderlands
Inclusive Growth Deal

Infrastructure

Places

Business, Skills and Innovation

Green Growth

Borders Railway

Carlisle Station Gateway and Citadels

Chapelcross

Mountain Bike Innovation Centre

Berwick Theatre and Conference Centre

Digital

Energy Investment Company

Quality of Place

Destination Borderlands

Rural Innovation and Skills

Business Infrastructure Programme

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL
www.carlisle.gov.uk

Cumbria County Council

Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL

Northumberland County Council
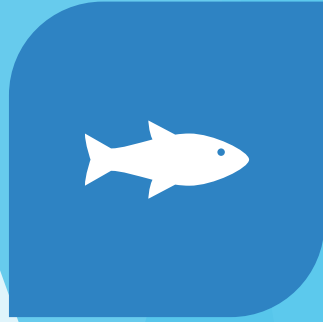
Scottish Borders COUNCIL

Regional Catalyst Projects

5 initial Project Concepts included in FRP

Concepts initiated by ICLRD, following discussions with Board Members and Council Officers

FRP detail includes Project Description and Potential

RIVER CATCHMENTS' SUSTAINABILITY

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKING DESTINATION

GREENWAYS AND BLUEWAYS

FARM TO FORK

THRIVING REGIONAL BIOECONOMY

Catalyst 1: Farm to Fork

Concept: strengthening / transitioning the region's strong agriculture base incl. major food producers, organic farms, centres of excellence, food initiatives, through stakeholder collaborations and food tourism initiatives etc.

Key Stakeholders: Govt Depts, Bord Bi, Bord Failte, Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland, Organic Trust RoI, Soil Association NI, Hotelier and Hospitality Associations, SME producers, processors, caterers and food outlets

Next Steps:

- ▶ Mapping Exercise
- ▶ Networking
- ▶ Develop Outline Project Proposal
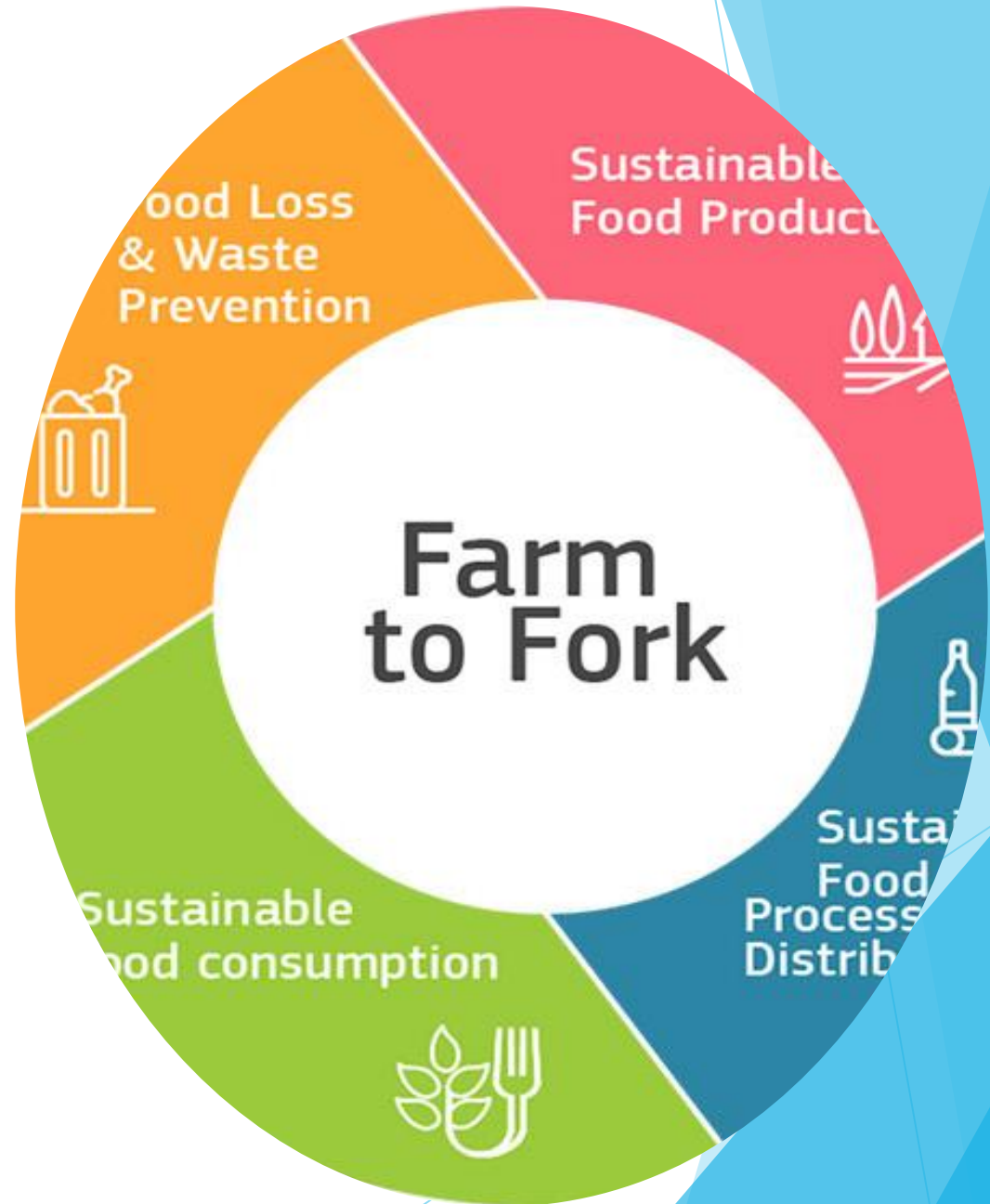
Catalyst 2: Greenways and Blueways

Concept: Growing and connecting these vital pieces of infrastructure to promote tourism and active travel

Key Stakeholders: Existing Greenway and Blueway initiatives, Waterways Ireland, Inland Waterways, Govt Depts, member Councils

Next Steps:

Masterplan Map

Continue to engage and network

Develop Outline Project Proposal

Catalyst 3: River Catchments Sustainability

Concept: creating liveable places through turning back to river catchments – using nature as an asset, from source to sea, to enhance water quality and to drive cross-sectoral projects that will strengthen the region's economic base

Key Stakeholders: Waterways Ireland, Inland Waterways, Govt Depts, member Councils

Next Steps:
- Networking
- Identify priority CBR river catchments
- Engage Relevant Expertise
- Outline Project Proposals (incl. a Catchment Sustainability Plan)

Catalyst 4: Thriving Regional Bioeconomy

▶ **Concept:** developing the region as a leader in progressing those strands of the bioeconomy where the area has relevant natural assets, incl. bio technology, bio fuels, and bio energy etc.

▶ **Key Stakeholders:** member Councils, Bio Economy SMEs, Experts in the Bioeconomy on the Island of Ireland and internationally

▶ Next Steps:

Desk based online Research

Outreach and networking

Outline Project Proposal

CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY OF WELLBEING
©EFI
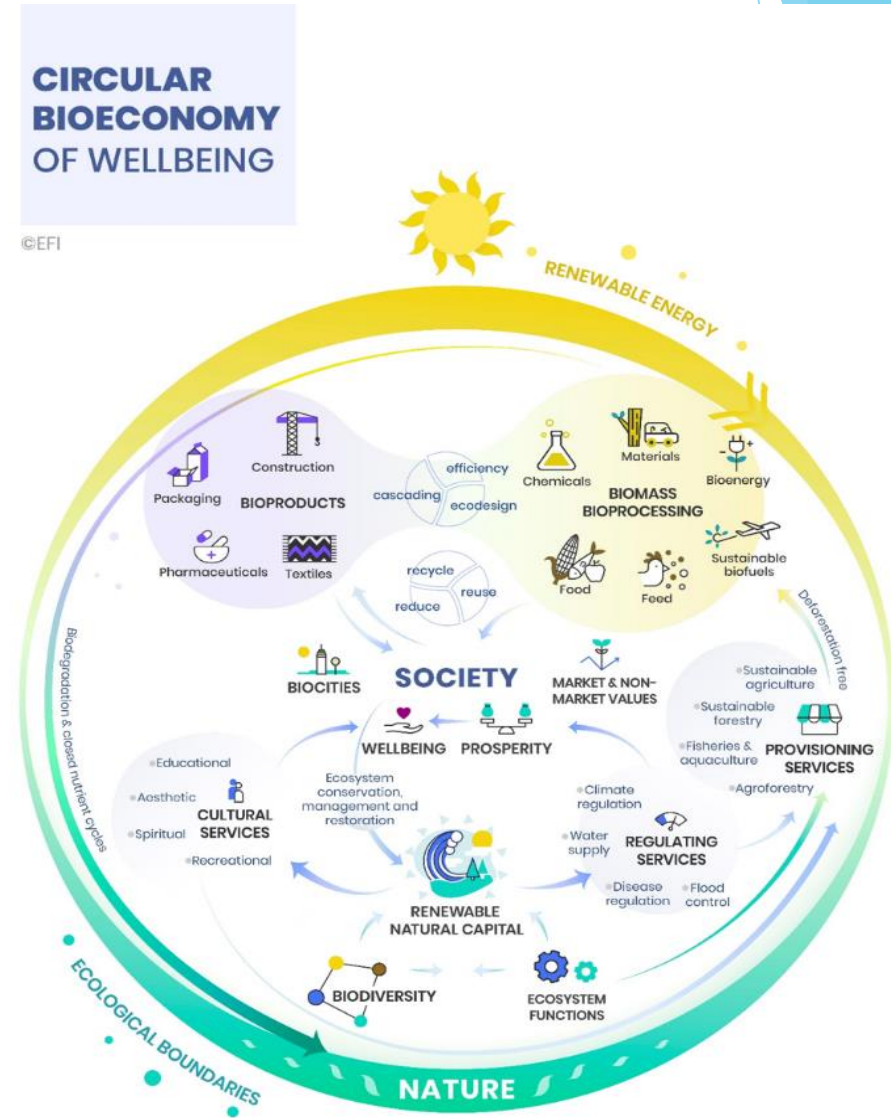
Concept: to develop a connected and networked set of mountain-biking trails

Capitalising on the region's typography and adding value to the existing suite of visitor attractions, while providing new amenities

Key Stakeholders: Existing mountain bike trail enterprises; member Councils; Govt depts; outdoor recreational agencies

Next Steps:

- Further desk research

- Outreach and learning from exemplar projects in the CBR and internationally

- Outline Project Proposals

Catalyst 5: International Mountain Biking Destination

Project Development Actions

Detailed development needed to advance what will be significant project ideas

Will require input of key stakeholders including member Councils

Identifying potential funding opportunities speeds up development

Prioritisation needed by the Board in consultation

1. **Strategic Development Network**
2. **Priority / Project Oversight Groups**

- Working with the Board and Council Senior Officers (CSO) forum on implementation
- Tap into regional and national expertise
- Influence investments by governments and others
- Serviced
- Policy praxis interpretations
- Drawing from North West examples

New Implementation Supports

Next Steps – Promoting the Framework

▶ Support from member Councils

▶ Complete final designed versions

▶ Launch and promote extensively to all key stakeholders

▶ Actively engage with governments, Councils, other partners and funders in advancing key priorities and Catalyst Projects

Thank-you!