

RECORD OF DECISIONS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBER

Geoff Paul, Director Planning, Economy and Housing
Councillor Allan Hepple, Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

Decision on the application to designate the civil parish of Berwick-upon-Tweed as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to determine an application to designate the civil parish of Berwick-upon-Tweed as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The civil parish of Berwick-upon-Tweed should be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and
- 2.2 The area covered by the parish of Berwick-upon-Tweed will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

3. Background

- 3.1 Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council has applied to the County Council seeking designation of the parish as a neighbourhood area.
- 3.2 Legislation sets out a number of steps that are required to be taken when using neighbourhood planning powers. The first requirement is to have an area designated as a 'neighbourhood area'. Once this has been done, all other neighbourhood planning powers may be exercised by the qualifying body, in this case, Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council.
- 3.3 The area designation application complies with the requirement set out in the relevant Regulations. It has been publicised for four weeks, from 29 June 2015 to 27 July 2015. Publicity took the form of a press release provided to newspapers circulating in the local area; site notices posted around the parish of Berwick-upon-Tweed; written notification to adjoining parish councils and the application was publicised on the County Council's website. One representation indicating support for the Neighbourhood Plan Area designation was received during the publicity period.
- 3.4 Legislation requires that the local planning authority must have regard to the desirability of designating the whole of a parish as a neighbourhood planning area where an application is made by a parish council. Unless there are good reasons to act otherwise, it will be appropriate to designate the whole of a civil parish as a neighbourhood area.
- 3.5 The proposed neighbourhood area consists of a single civil parish which includes the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Discussions have taken place with adjoining parish councils to explore the opportunity of designating a larger neighbourhood area which would cover parishes to the south of the town. These discussions were instigated by officers who considered that it may be appropriate to include, in particular, Ord Civil Parish within the same neighbourhood area due to the position of the current parish boundaries which split East Ord between the civil parishes of Berwick-upon-Tweed and Ord. However, the adjoining parish councils, including Ord Parish Council, have confirmed that they do not

wish to be included within the Berwick neighbourhood area. Ord Parish Council is continuing to pursue the possibility of joining with other parish councils in the Norham & Islandshire cluster to create a separate neighbourhood area. In view of the position adopted by the adjoining parish councils, and the legal requirement that all parish councils must formally consent to their inclusion within a neighbourhood area, it is considered appropriate to designate the civil parish of Berwick-upon-Tweed as a neighbourhood area.

- 3.6 As part of the process of designation the County Council must consider whether the area should also be designated as a business area for neighbourhood planning purposes. The proposed neighbourhood area is not dominated by business activities. It would therefore not be appropriate to designate it as such.

Report Authors:

Rachel Thompson – Student Planner

(01670) 622643 Rachel.Thompson@northumberland.gov.uk and;

David English – Communities and Infrastructure Manager

(01670) 623619 David.English@northumberland.gov.uk

DECISION TAKEN

Director Planning, Economy and Housing

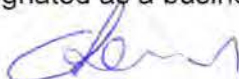
Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

Subject: Designation of the parish of Berwick-upon-Tweed as a neighbourhood area

Decision taken:

The civil parish of Berwick-upon-Tweed will be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The neighbourhood area will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

Signatures



Director Planning, Economy and Housing:

Date: 29/7/15

Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration:

Date: 29/7/15

