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

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Decision on the application to designate the civil parish of Lowick as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning

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1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

2.1 The civil parish of Lowick 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 Lowick will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

3. Background

3.1 Lowick Parish 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, Lowick Parish 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 15 May 2015 to 12 June 2015. Publicity took the form of a press release provided to newspapers circulating in the local area; site notices posted around the parish of Lowick; written notification to adjoining parish councils and the application was publicised on the County Council's website. No representations were 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 village of Lowick. Whilst some adjoining parish councils in the Norham and Islandshire area have considered working together to create a neighbourhood plan for a larger group of parishes, Lowick Parish Council has indicated that they wish to limit the extent of their neighbourhood planning work to their civil parish and have expressed no intention of joining with adjacent parishes to create a larger neighbourhood area. The civil parish boundaries provide an appropriate geographically distinct area within which neighbourhood planning activity could take place. It is considered appropriate to designate the civil parish of Lowick 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.

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DECISION TAKEN

Director Planning, Economy and Housing

Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

Subject: Designation of the parish of Lowick as a neighbourhood area

Decision taken:

The civil parish of Lowick 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
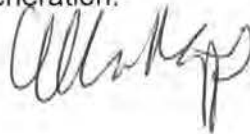
Director Planning, Economy and Housing: Date: 19/06/2015

Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration: Date: 19/06/2015