

# RECORD OF DECISIONS BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Barry Rowland, Corporate Director of Local Services  
Councillor Tom Brechany, Executive Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

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## Decision on the application to designate the Civil Parishes of Alnwick, Denwick and Denwick Detached 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 parishes of Alnwick, Denwick and Denwick Detached as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

### 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The civil parishes of Alnwick, Denwick and Denwick Detached should be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and
2. The area covered by the parishes of Alnwick, Denwick and Denwick Detached will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 In 2011 Alnwick was selected to be part of the government's neighbourhood planning 'Front Runners' programme which aims to test neighbourhood planning powers introduced through the Localism Act and other enabling Regulations. 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 Planning Area. Once this has been done, all other neighbourhood planning powers may be exercised by a recognised qualifying body. In this case the qualifying body is Alnwick Town Council. The Town Council is currently engaged in leading the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan and is working, through a steering group, in partnership with other local organisations including the County Council and the neighbouring parishes of Denwick and Denwick Detached.
- 3.2 The area designation application covers the administrative areas of the civil parishes of Alnwick, Denwick and Denwick Detached. The main reason for extending the proposed boundaries of the neighbourhood planning area beyond Alnwick Town Council administrative area is that much of the southern parts of Alnwick town, including all of Lionheart Industrial Estate, is located within Denwick Detached Parish. The area to the southern and eastern sides of the town are also areas where there is potential for further development. For example, a proposed new High School site is located within Denwick Parish. A meeting of Denwick Parish Council on 2 March 2012 agreed unanimously to participate in the preparation of the neighbourhood development plan with Alnwick Town Council adopting the role of qualifying body having responsibility for preparing the neighbourhood plan in consultation with Denwick Parish Council.
- 3.3 The area designation application complies with the requirement set out in the relevant Regulations. It has been publicised for 7 weeks, from 14 January to 4 March 2013, in excess of the six week period specified in the Regulations. Publicity took the form of a

public notice in the Northumberland Gazette; site notices posted around the parishes of Alnwick, Denwick and Denwick Detached; and written notification to adjoining parish councils who were the only statutory consultees specified in the Regulations. The application was also published on the County Council's website.

- 3.4 Only one representation was received during the publicity period. This was received by email from Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council which stated that they had no issues to raise with the area designation application.
- 3.5 The area proposed for designation is considered suitable for neighbourhood planning purposes in that it comprises two neighbouring local government administrative areas which demonstrate strong geographical links with one another and are distinct from their neighbouring areas. It is expected in parished areas that the designation of neighbourhood areas will generally follow Parish Council administrative areas unless there are clear reasons why an alternative area should be designated.
- 3.6 The County Council must determine the application for designation of the neighbourhood area and must also consider whether the area should also be designated as a business area for neighbourhood planning purposes. The application has attracted no objections and it proposes a suitable area for neighbourhood planning purposes. There are no specific proposals from the local business community that would require designation of the neighbourhood area as a business area.

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## DECISION TAKEN

**Corporate Director of Local Services**

**Executive Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration**

**Subject: Designation of Alnwick, Denwick and Denwick Detached as a neighbourhood area**

**Decision taken:**

Designation of the civil parishes of Alnwick, Denwick and Denwick Detached as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and

The area covered by Alnwick, Denwick and Denwick Detached will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

**Signatures**



Corporate Director of Local Services:

Date: 08/04/13



Executive Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration:

Date: 10/04/13