

RECORD OF DECISIONS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBER

Rob Murfin – Director of Planning

Councillor John Riddle – Cabinet Member for Community Services

Decision on the application to designate the modified civil parish of Belford as a new 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 modified civil parish of Belford as a new neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

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

3. Background

- 3.1 Following a formal boundary review which was approved by Northumberland County Council and came into force on 1 April 2021 the parish boundary of Belford has been modified to incorporate the former civil parish of Easington. This new neighbourhood area will replace the area previously approved on 22 September 2015. Belford Parish Council has applied to the County Council seeking designation of the parish as a new 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, Belford Parish Council.
- 3.3 The area designation application complies with the requirements set out in the relevant Regulations.
- 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. 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 modified civil parish of Belford as a new 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.
- 3.7 Approval of this new Belford Neighbourhood Area will replace the previous designation which will no longer have effect from the relevant date of this decision.

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DECISION TAKEN

Director of Planning

Cabinet Member for Community Services

Subject: Designation of the modified parish of Belford as a new neighbourhood area

Decision taken:

The civil parish of Belford will be designated as a new 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 of Planning

Date: 10 May 2021



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Cabinet Member for Community Services

Date: 19 May 2021



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