

RECORD OF DECISIONS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH POLICY BOARD MEMBER

Geoff Paul, Director Planning, Economy and Housing

Councillor Allan Hepple, Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

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

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

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

3. Background

- 3.1 Hexham 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 planning area. Once this has been done, all other neighbourhood planning powers may be exercised by the qualifying body, in this case, Hexham Town Council.
- 3.3 The area designation application complies with the requirement set out in the relevant Regulations. It has been publicised for six weeks, from 9 January 2015 to 20 February 2015. Publicity took the form of site notices posted around the parish of Hexham; written notification to adjoining parish councils and the application was publicised on the County Council's website. One representation was received during the publicity period, the representation queried the purpose of Neighbourhood Planning.
- 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 town or parish council. The expectation must be that, unless there are good reasons to act otherwise, it will be appropriate to designate the whole of a parish as a neighbourhood area.
- 3.5 The proposed neighbourhood area consists of a single civil parish, in a rural area with a market town settlement. The adjoining parish councils have expressed no intention of joining with Hexham 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 Hexham 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.

Although there is business activity 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

Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

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

Decision taken:

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

Signatures

Director Planning, Economy and Housing:



Date: 22/4/15.

Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration:



Date: 22/4/15