

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 parishes of Rothbury, Cartington, Thropton, and Whitton and Tosson 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 parishes of Rothbury Cartington, Thropton, and Whitton and Tosson as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The civil parishes of Rothbury, Cartington, Thropton, and Whitton and Tosson 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 parishes of Rothbury, Cartington, Thropton, and Whitton and Tosson will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

3. Background

- 3.1 Rothbury Parish Council has applied to the County Council seeking designation of an area comprising the civil parishes of Rothbury, Cartington, Thropton, and Whitton and Tosson as a neighbourhood area. Rothbury Parish Council is the qualifying body for the purpose of this application and their lead role has been endorsed by the three other parish councils whose administrative areas are included within the proposed neighbourhood planning area. The parish councils have agreed that the area should be called the Mid-Coquetdale 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 including leading the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan.
- 3.3 The area designation application complies with the requirement set out in the relevant Regulations. It has been publicised for six weeks, from 4 December 2014 to 29 January 2015. Publicity took the form of a public notice in the Northumberland Gazette; site notices posted around the parishes of Rothbury, Cartington, Thropton, and Whitton and Tosson; written notification to adjoining parish councils; the application was publicised on the County Council's website; and written notification was given to Northumberland National Park Authority.
- 3.4 Two representations were received during the publicity period. Longframlington Parish Council had no objections to the application; and Mr Quick from Thropton objected to Rothbury Parish Council becoming the qualifying body and also objects to the process undertaken to publicise the application which he considers insufficient. Additionally, there

was one late response received from Northumberland National Park Authority, which states that the NNPA has no objection to the designation of the neighbourhood area.

- 3.5 Legislation requires that the County Council publicise the application on its website and carries out publicity that the County Councils considers would bring the application to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the proposed neighbourhood area. The publicity described in paragraph 3.3 above is considered to meet requirements described in the relevant Regulations. Rothbury Parish Council is a relevant body for the purposes of neighbourhood planning legislation and the partner parish councils have formally resolved that Rothbury Parish Council should be the qualifying body. Accordingly, the objection raised to the designation does not warrant a refusal of the application
- 3.6 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. 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.
- 3.7 The proposed neighbourhood area consists of a four civil parishes in a rural area with one service centre and a number of smaller settlements. Those parish councils adjoining the proposed neighbourhood area have expressed no intention of joining with Rothbury, Cartington, Thropton, and Whitton and Tosson 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 parishes of Rothbury, Cartington, Thropton, and Whitton and Tosson 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:

Debbie Longlands – Planning Officer (Communities)
(01670) 620378 Debbie.Longlands@northumberland.gov.uk

DECISION TAKEN

Director Planning, Economy and Housing

Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

Subject: Designation of the parishes of Rothbury, Cartington, Thropton, Whitton and Tosson as a neighbourhood area

Decision taken:

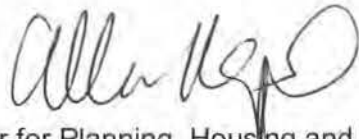
The civil parishes of Rothbury, Cartington, Thropton, and Whitton and Tosson be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and the neighbourhood area will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. The neighbourhood area will be known as the Mid-Coquetdale Neighbourhood Area.

Signatures



Director Planning, Economy and Housing:

Date: 5/3/15



Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration:

Date: 5/3/15