

RECORD OF DECISIONS BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Barry Rowland, Corporate Director of Local Services

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

Decision on the application to designate the Parishes of Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford and Pegswood 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 Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford and Pegswood as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The Civil Parishes of Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford and Pegswood 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 Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford and Pegswood will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

3. Background

- 3.1 In November 2011 Morpeth Town Council contacted the County Council expressing their interest in being considered as a candidate for the final wave of the government's neighbourhood planning 'Front Runners' programme. This programme aims to test neighbourhood planning powers introduced through the Localism Act and other enabling Regulations. A bid was lodged by the County Council for entry into the fifth wave of front runners and Morpeth was subsequently named as a front runner in March 2012.
- 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 leading the preparation of the neighbourhood development plan. Morpeth Town Council is the qualifying body for the purposes of this application and their lead role has been endorsed by the neighbouring Parish Councils whose administrative areas are included within the proposed neighbourhood planning area.
- 3.3 There are strong geographical and functional links between the town of Morpeth and the Parishes of Hepscott, Hebron, Mitford and Pegswood which comprise its immediate hinterland. Following discussions between Morpeth Town Council and those adjoining Parish Councils agreement was reached confirming mutual support for the proposed area within which future development pressures are considered likely to arise. Letters of confirmation of this support and agreement that Morpeth Town Council will be the qualifying body from Hebron, Hepscott, Mitford and Pegswood Parish Councils have been submitted with the area designation application.

- 3.4 The area designation application complies with the requirement set out in the relevant Regulations. It has been publicised for six weeks, from 11 February to 25 March 2013 in line with the Regulations. Publicity took the form of a public notice in the Morpeth Herald; site notices posted around the parishes of Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscoth, Mitford and Pegswood; written notification has been given to adjoining Parish Councils; and the application was publicised on the County Council's website.
- 3.5 Only one representation was received during the publicity period which ended on 25 March 2013. This was received by email from Whalton Parish Council who stated that they had no issues with the proposed area boundary but would welcome the opportunity to comment on further applications should the neighbourhood plan progress.
- 3.6 The area proposed for designation is considered suitable for neighbourhood planning purposes in that it comprises a group of neighbouring local government administrative areas which demonstrate strong functional links. It is expected in parished areas that neighbourhood area boundaries will generally follow Parish Council administrative areas unless there are clear reasons why an alternative area should be designated.
- 3.7 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.

Report Authors:

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DECISION TAKEN

Corporate Director of Local Services

Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

Subject: Designation of parishes of Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscoth, Mitford and Pegswood as a neighbourhood area

Decision taken:

Designation of the civil Parishes of Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscoth, Mitford and Pegswood as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and.

The area covered by the Parishes of Morpeth, Hebron, Hepscoth, Mitford and Pegswood will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

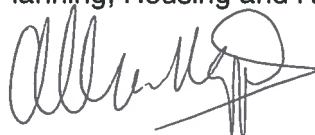
Signatures



Corporate Director of Local Services:

Date: 28/6/13

Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration:



Date: 28/6/13