

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

Barry Rowland, Executive Director - Place

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

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## Decision on the application to designate the Parishes of North Sunderland, Beadnell and Bamburgh 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 North Sunderland, Beadnell and Bamburgh as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

### 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The Civil Parishes of North Sunderland, Beadnell and Bamburgh 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 North Sunderland, Beadnell and Bamburgh will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 North Sunderland Parish Council, in partnership with the parishes of Beadnell and Bamburgh has applied for the North Northumberland Coastal Area to be designated as a neighbourhood plan 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 leading the preparation of the neighbourhood development plan. North Sunderland Parish 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 The area designation application complies with the requirement set out in the relevant Regulations. It has been publicised for six weeks, from 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Publicity took the form of a public notice in the Northumberland Gazette; site notices posted around the parishes of Bamburgh, Beadnell and North Sunderland; written notification to adjoining parish councils and the application was publicised on the County Council's website. No representations were received during the publicity period.
- 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. 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. The parishes of Bamburgh, Beadnell and North Sunderland all sit within the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, there are strong geographical

and functional links between them and they are all central to the tourism industry of the area.

- 3.5 The three parishes have some of the highest second home percentages within the country and average house prices are almost twice that of the rest of north Northumberland. The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a platform for community led planning allowing issues that are important to the community to be addressed, such as housing delivery including affordable housing, employment and business development, and the protection of the environment.
- 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.
- 3.7 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.

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**DECISION TAKEN**

**Executive Director - Place**

**Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration**

**Subject: Designation of the parishes of North Sunderland, Beadnell and Bamburgh as a neighbourhood area**

**Decision taken:**

Designation of the parishes of North Sunderland, Beadnell and Bamburgh 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 North Sunderland, Beadnell and Bamburgh will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

**Signatures**

Executive Director - Place:



Date: 18/02/14

Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration:



Date: 18/02/14