

RECORD OF DECISIONS BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Barry Rowland, Corporate Director of Local Services
Councillor Allan Hepple, Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

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

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

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

3. Background

- 3.1 Stannington Parish Council have 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, Stannington Parish 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 19th August 2013 to 30th September 2013. Publicity took the form of a public notice in the Morpeth Herald; site notices posted around the parish of Stannington; written notification has been given to adjoining parish councils and Newcastle City Council; and the application was publicised on the County Council's website.
- 3.4 One response was received from a resident of Stannington expressing concerns about the motives and impartiality of some members of the Parish Council in wanting to prepare a neighbourhood plan.
- 3.5 Designation of a neighbourhood area is not a matter for the Parish Council to determine: this is a function of the local planning authority. In using neighbourhood planning powers the Parish Council must comply with legislative requirements including the need to meet certain 'basic conditions'; a plan must have appropriate regard to national policy; it must conform to the strategic elements of the local plan; it must be compatible with EU obligations; it must also be compatible with human rights obligations and it should be based on up to date and robust evidence. The need for any plan or order to be taken by independent examination; and the need for plans or orders to be put to local referendum prior to its adoption. These checks are considered sufficient to address the concerns raised in the matter of objection to this designation application.

- 3.6 The area proposed for designation is appropriate for neighbourhood planning purposes. It comprises a single civil parish area which includes the main village of Stannington, along with smaller settlements of Clifton and Stannington Station, small hamlets and a number of farm steads in the surrounding countryside. 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. The adjoining parishes of Ponteland and Cramlington are pursuing individual neighbourhood plans; Mitford and Hepscott are part of Morpeth's neighbourhood plan area and Dinnington to the south located within Newcastle City Council's local authority boundary, is also pursuing its own neighbourhood plan.
- 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.
- 3.8 Notwithstanding the objection, having regard to the size and nature of the civil parish of Stannington and the neighbourhood planning activity currently being undertaken in surrounding parishes, it is appropriate to designate the civil parish of Stannington as a neighbourhood area.

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DECISION TAKEN

Corporate Director of Local Services

Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration

Subject: Designation of the parish of Stannington Parish as a neighbourhood area

Decision taken:

The civil Parish of Stannington be designated 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 Parish of Stannington will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

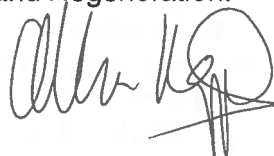
Signatures

Corporate Director of Local Services:



Date: 14/11/13.

Policy Board Member for Planning, Housing and Regeneration:



Date: 18/11/13