

# **RECORD OF DECISIONS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBER**

Rob Murfin – Interim Executive Director of Planning & Local Services, Regeneration,  
Commercial & Economy

Councillor Colin Horncastle – Cabinet Member for Community Services

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## **Decision on the application to designate the civil parish of Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham 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 parish of Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- i. The civil parish of Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham should be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of section 61G(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and
- ii. The area covered by the parish of Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham will not be designated as a business area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish 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 area'. Once this has been done, all other neighbourhood planning powers may be exercised by the qualifying body, in this case, Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council.
- 3.3 The area designation application complies with the requirements set out in the relevant Regulations.
- 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. Unless there are good reasons to act otherwise, it will be appropriate to designate the whole of a civil parish as a neighbourhood area.
- 3.5 The proposed neighbourhood area consists of a single civil parish. The adjoining parish councils have expressed no intention of joining with Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham 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 Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham as a neighbourhood area.

- 3.6 The proposed neighbourhood area crosses the administrative boundaries of Northumberland County Council and the Northumberland National Park Authority. For this reason, an application has also been made by the Parish Council to the Park Authority for the neighbourhood area to be designated.
- 3.7 To simplify the process for the community and to minimise duplication of work by the planning authorities, the Park Authority has agreed that the County Council will be the lead authority to handle neighbourhood planning in Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish.
- 3.8 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**

**Interim Executive Director of Planning & Local Services, Regeneration, Commercial & Economy**

**Cabinet Member for Community Services**

**Subject: Designation of the parish of Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham as a neighbourhood area**

**Decision taken:**

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

**Signatures**

Interim Executive Director of Planning & Local Services,  
Regeneration, Commercial & Economy

Date: 18 March 2022



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Cabinet Member for Community Services

Date: 18 March 2022



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