

RECORD OF DECISIONS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBER

Geoff Paul, Director – Planning, Economy and Housing
Councillor Allan Hepple, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

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

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

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

3. Background

- 3.1 West Bedlington Town 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, West Bedlington Town Council.
- 3.3 The area designation application complies with the requirement set out in the relevant Regulations. It has been publicised for four weeks, from 25 March 2016 to 25 April 2016. Publicity took the form of a press release provided to newspapers circulating in the local area; site notices posted around the parish of West Bedlington; written notification to adjoining parish councils, and the application was publicised on the County Council's website. No representations were made during this 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. 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 West Bedlington 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 West Bedlington 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.

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DECISION TAKEN

Director – Planning, Economy and Housing

Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Subject: Designation of the parish of West Bedlington as a neighbourhood area

Decision taken:

The civil parish of West Bedlington 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

Director – Planning, Economy and Housing:



Date: 27.4.16

Cabinet Member for Economic Growth:



Date: 3/5/16