

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 Whittington 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 Whittington as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

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

3. Background

- 3.1 Whittington 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, Whittington Parish 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 29 January 2016 to 29 February 2016. Publicity took the form of a press release provided to newspapers circulating in the local area; site notices posted around the parish of Whittington; written notification to adjoining parish councils, and the application was publicised on the County Council's website. 26 representations were made during this period. 24 of these representations expressed general support for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Whittington; one representation was received from an adjoining parish council stating that they had no objection to the Area Designation; and one representation was supportive and expressed the view that a Neighbourhood Plan in the area should consider the location and type of houses within the Parish.
- 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 Whittington 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 Whittington 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 Whittington as a neighbourhood area

Decision taken:

The civil parish of Whittington 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: 1.3.16

Cabinet Member for Economic Growth:



Date: 2.3.16