

RECORD OF DECISIONS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN CONSULTATION WITH CABINET MEMBER

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

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

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

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

3. Background

- 3.1 Wooler 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, Wooler 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 09 October 2015 to 20 November 2015. Publicity took the form of a press release provided to newspapers circulating in the local area; site notices posted around the parish of Wooler; written notification to adjoining parish councils and the application was publicised on the County Council's website. One representation was received during the consultation period. This from the Parish Council of Kirknewton. The comments received were submitted to reaffirm that development was not supported in Kirknewton. The parish of Kirknewton is not within the proposed neighbourhood area of Wooler and will not impact on 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 Wooler 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 Wooler 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.

Report Authors:

Duncan Holness – Planning Officer

(01670) 622643 Duncan.Holness@northumberland.gov.uk and;

David English – Communities and Infrastructure Manager

(01670) 623619 David.English@northumberland.gov.uk

DECISION TAKEN

Director Planning, Economy and Housing

Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Subject: Designation of the parish of Wooler as a neighbourhood area

Decision taken:

The civil parish of Wooler 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.

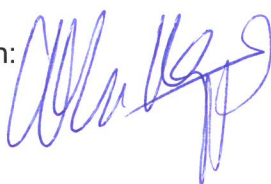
Signatures

Director Planning and Economy:



Date: 23.11.15

Cabinet Member for Economic Growth:



Date: 23.11.15