

## **REPORT 6: Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Area designation**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- a. This report seeks a decision on an application to designate Haydon Bridge Parish as a Neighbourhood Area for neighbourhood planning purposes.

### **2. Recommendations**

- a. **Members are asked to agree to designate Haydon Bridge Parish as a Neighbourhood Area.**

### **3. Implications**

- a. Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

- b. Equalities

The introduction of Neighbourhood Planning by the Localism Act 2011 gives local communities strong powers to play a more positive and proactive role in planning for their areas. Neighbourhood Plans are subject to a local referendum providing an incentive for full and genuine engagement with all sectors of the community.

- c. Link to Business Plan:

Working with local communities to assist them in developing Neighbourhood Plans is a key action of Aim 4 'Contributing to Thriving Communities'.

### **4. Background**

- a. The Localism Act of 2011 allows local communities (particularly Parish Councils) to prepare 'Neighbourhood Plans' which, if supported by the wider community in a referendum, become part of the development plan and so have a strong influence on planning decisions in the area. Neighbourhood planning powers are only available to 'qualifying bodies'. Parish Councils automatically apply as qualifying bodies.
- b. Haydon Bridge Parish Council is the 'relevant qualifying body' for the purposes of Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and therefore qualifies to undertake neighbourhood planning. The Neighbourhood Area designation enables Haydon Bridge Parish Council to undertake neighbourhood planning and in particular to prepare a neighbourhood development plan for the Civil Parish of Haydon Bridge.
- c. Northumberland County Council designated the Neighbourhood Area in June 2018, however they overlooked the fact that a small area of the Parish lies within Northumberland National Park.

### **5. Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Area Designation application**

- a. Haydon Bridge Parish Council has now formally applied to Northumberland National Park Authority for designation of the whole Parish as a Neighbourhood Area. In line with Regulation 5 the application includes a map (see appendix 1) identifying the area and a statement explaining why the area is considered appropriate.
- b. As a significant part of the Haydon Bridge area falls within Northumberland County Council, it has been agreed that Northumberland County Council acts as the Lead Authority to handle the neighbourhood planning in that area. Officers at Northumberland National Park have been invited to be part of the Steering group.

- c. There is no need for the National Park Authority to publicise this designation as the whole area of designation covers the whole area of the Parish. However it is good practice for the details of the designation to be included on the Authority's appropriate webpages.

**6. Consideration**

- a. There are no practical reasons why the area of Haydon Bridge Civil Parish could not form the basis of a Neighbourhood Area for neighbourhood planning purposes.

**7. Conclusions**

- a. **Members are asked to agree to formally designate Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Area.**

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**Background papers:**

Appendix 1: Application form for Haydon Bridge Neighbourhood Area designation including map