

Report: 9 Humshaugh Parish Neighbourhood Plan

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to designate Humshaugh Parish as a Neighbourhood Area for neighbourhood planning purposes.

2. Recommendations

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Agree to designate Humshaugh Parish as a Neighbourhood Area.

3. Implications

- a. **Financial:** There are no financial implications arising from this report. Northumberland County Council will be lead Authority.
- 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 the Business Plan:** Working with local communities to assist them in developing Neighbourhood Plans is a key action of Aim 4; Contributing to Thriving Communities.
- d. **Climate Action:** The Neighbourhood Plan is likely to contain policies to address climate action in the plan area.

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. Humshaugh 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 Humshaugh Parish Council to undertake neighbourhood planning and in particular to prepare a neighbourhood development plan for the Civil Parish of Humshaugh.
- c. A small area of the parish falls inside the National Park boundary (Blackcarts and Greencarts farms to the west of the parish), with the majority of the area falling within Northumberland County Council. NCC have not yet designated the Neighbourhood Area but propose to in March 2022.

5. Humshaugh Area Designation Application

- a. Humshaugh Parish Council have applied to be designated as a Neighbourhood Plan area. In line with Regulation 5 the application includes a map identifying the area and a statement explaining why the area is considered appropriate.
- b. As a significant part of the Humshaugh parish 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.
- c. There is no requirement for the National Park Authority to publicise this designation. However, it is good practise for the details of the designation to be included on the Authority's webpages.

6. Conclusions

- a. There are no practical reasons why the area of Humshaugh Parish could not form the basis of a Neighbourhood Area for neighbourhood planning purposes.
- b. Members are asked to formally agree the designation of Humshaugh Parish as a Neighbourhood area.

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Appendix 1 Map showing National Park area and boundary within Humshaugh Parish

