

REPORT ON THE GRESHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA AND FORUM APPLICATIONS

Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure:

Cllr Lewis Young

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval under delegated authority powers (see below paragraph 16) for two applications submitted to the Council, by Streets Ahead for Information, local residents and businesses within Gresham, for (i) Neighbourhood Area status and (ii) to set-up the Gresham Neighbourhood Forum, in order to facilitate the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

BACKGROUND

2. Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, applications can be made to local planning authorities to designate Neighbourhood Areas, and Neighbourhood Forums, in order to facilitate the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.
3. The designation of a Neighbourhood Area enables the relevant body to establish a vision and general planning policies for the development, and use of land in their designated neighbourhood. This takes the form of a Neighbourhood Plan, which the relevant body prepares. Once adopted, following a successful referendum the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Statutory Development Plan for the area.
4. The Regulations make clear that a Neighbourhood Plan should be prepared to align with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider area, and be in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the strategic policies of a Council's Local Plan. In addition, Neighbourhood Plans are required to plan positively and not promote less development than set-out in the Local Plan
5. In 2013 the Council designated its first Neighbourhood Area in Marton West Ward, and the setting-up of the Marton West Neighbourhood Forum. The Forum subsequently prepared the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted by the Council in November 2016, following a successful referendum.
6. The Council is now in receipt of two applications from Streets Ahead for Information (a local community charity within the Gresham area), local residents and businesses to have the previous Gresham Ward boundary designated as a Neighbourhood Area and to set-up the Gresham Neighbourhood Forum (see page 4 attached Neighbourhood Area boundary map), for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.
7. The proposed Neighbourhood Area is bounded by Newport, Hartington and Borough Roads in the north, Linthorpe Road in the east, Ayresome Street in the south and Heywood Street in the west. The proposed Neighbourhood Area would also include the Gresham/Jewels Street regeneration area (adopted 2014 Housing Local Plan policy H17) within its boundary.

CONSIDERATION AND DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

8. Under the Regulations, the Council has essentially three options it can take when determining Neighbourhood Area and Forum applications. These are:

- i. approve the applications, as submitted, without any modifications;
 - ii. refuse the applications, as submitted, but approve with modifications; and,
 - iii. refuse the applications.
9. The determination process also involves assessing the submitted documentation, whether aspects of the applications need to be amended, particularly if there are clear planning reasons to do so, along with analysis of any representations received as part of the consultation process.
10. Consideration also needs to be given as to whether the applicants have clearly defined the special characteristics, (both physical and non-physical) of what makes their area a neighbourhood. Particular attention is also given to the applicants' aims and objectives for the Neighbourhood Area, to ensure they are compatible with the Council's own strategic approach and which outline the continuing promotion or improvement of the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.
11. In this case an assessment of the Neighbourhood Area and Forum applications determined that:
 - i. the applicants had submitted the requisite information;
 - ii. there were no existing Neighbourhood Areas or Forums within the area, which have not expired or been withdrawn;
 - iii. the prospective Forum reflects the make-up, the character of the area, and is drawn from different sections of the community; and,
 - iv. no objections in respect of the principle of designating a Neighbourhood Area and the setting-up of the Gresham Neighbourhood Forum, have been submitted to the Council as part of the public consultation process.

CONSULTATION

12. The Council undertook a seven-week period of consultation, (the above Regulations require a minimum six weeks consultation, however an additional week was added (with the consent of the applicants) to take account of the Christmas period) between the 18th December 2018 to 5th February 2019. In accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, the following methods of engagement were utilised:
 - i. the documentation was made available for inspection at the Civic Centre reception area;
 - ii. the details of the applications were placed on the Council's website and consultation portal, along with how representations can be made; and,
 - iii. public notices were placed in and around the Gresham area, detailing how representations can be made.
13. Additionally, the documentation was made available for inspection at the Streets Ahead for Information offices in Parliament Road, Gresham. An officer also met with representatives of Streets Ahead for Information to outline the consultation process, next steps and procedural issues.

RESPONSES RECEIVED

14. During the consultation the Council received 11 individual responses in support of the application, from local residents and businesses. A further four consultee responses were received from North Yorkshire County Council, National Grid, Historic England and Sport

England. The consultees did not object to the principle of designating a Neighbourhood Area within the Gresham area, or the setting-up of the Forum.

15. As the applications are in accordance with the above Regulations, meet the requirements of what a Neighbourhood Area should be, and given that no objections have been received, then it is incumbent upon the Council to designate the area as a Neighbourhood Area, and the setting-up of the Gresham Neighbourhood Forum.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

16. Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, a delegated authority was issued on the 18 June 2013, authorising the Director of Neighbourhood and Communities (now the Executive Director for Growth and Place) and the Head of Development (now the Director of Regeneration), in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development (now the Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure), to approve any potential future Neighbourhood Area and Forum applications, subject to no adverse issues being raised through statutory consultation processes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. It is recommended that the Executive Director for Growth and Place and the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure, approve the designation of the Gresham Neighbourhood Area and Forum to enable the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the area.

REASONS

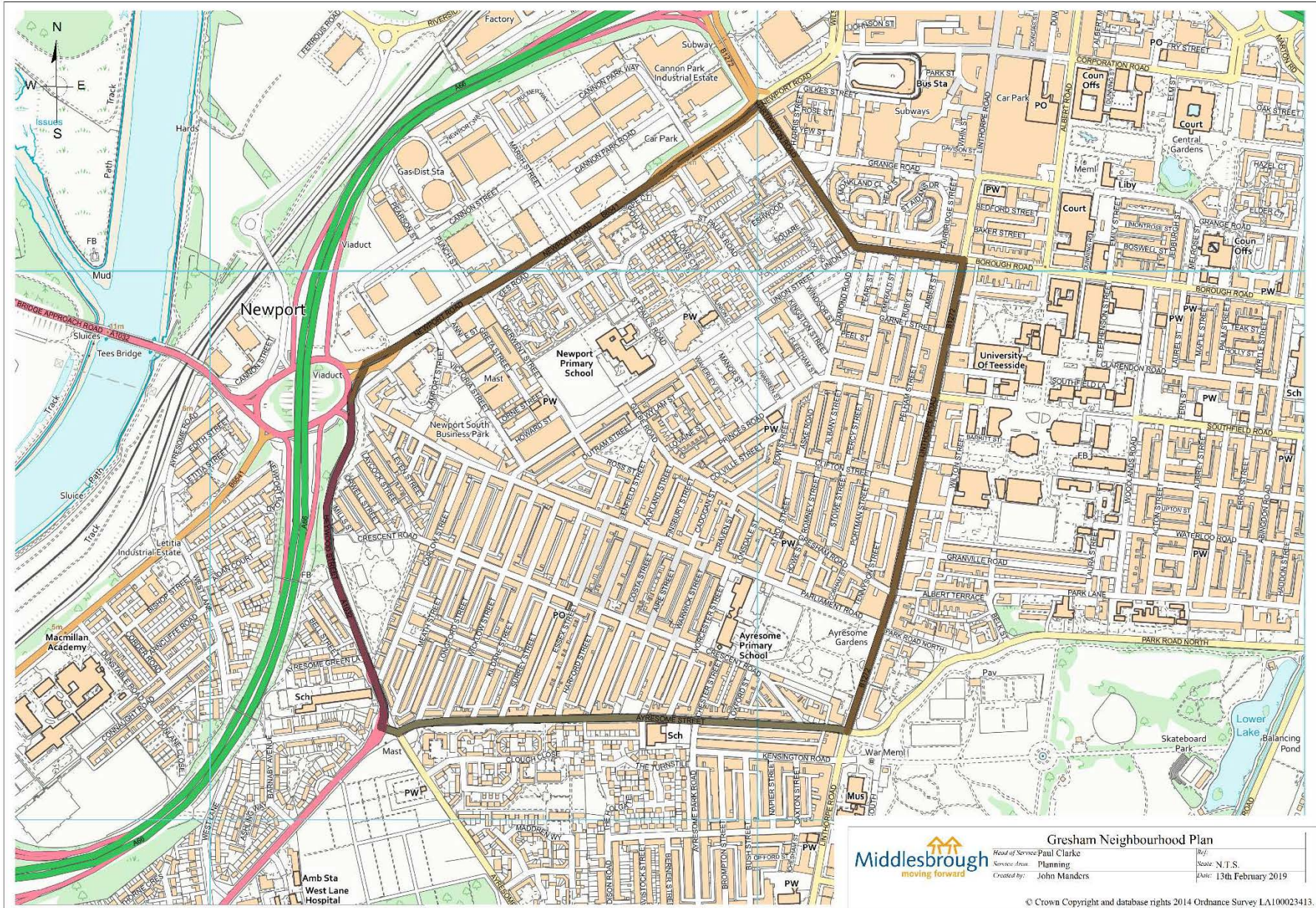
18. To ensure compliance with the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), regarding the establishment of Neighbourhood Areas and Forums.


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	Gresham Neighbourhood Plan	
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	Service Area Planning	
	Created by: John Manders	
		Date: 13th February 2019