DECISION
OF COUNCILLOR ELFAN AP REES

THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORTATION, CONCESSIONARY FARES, CAR PARKS, HOUSING, GYPSIES AND
TRAVELLERS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WITH ADVICE FROM
THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISION NO. 15/16 DE 95

SUBJECT: Congresbury Neighbourhood Area

Background: Congresbury Parish Council submitted an application to designate a Neighbourhood Area on 8 July 2015. This is a prerequisite to undertaking any form of neighbourhood planning in the parish.

The Neighbourhood Area must be formally designated by North Somerset Council under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The proposed Neighbourhood Area relates to the whole of the Parish of Congresbury. The application was duly advertised by North Somerset Council in accordance with the above regulations.

Sixteen responses have been received, ten of which make no specific comments about the Neighbourhood Area and four of which specifically support it. Two objections have been received, although one is based on a misunderstanding that the Neighbourhood Area is the same as the village settlement boundary and that this application is to extend the settlement boundary of Congresbury to include the whole of the parish. This is not the case, the existing settlement boundary is not affected by the designation of Neighbourhood Area. The other objection relates to a draft proposal which is being developed by a group within the village to create a new village hall and not the Neighbourhood Area itself.

No reasons have therefore been put forward to alter the proposed boundary of the Neighbourhood Area. The inclusion of the whole of the Parish of Congresbury in the Neighbourhood Area is logical and allows the Parish Council to explore any issues which emerge throughout the Parish area in any forthcoming neighbourhood plan.

DECISION: The application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for the Parish of Congresbury is approved in accordance with the application received on the 8 July 2015.
**Reasons:** The designation of the Neighbourhood Area is a pre-requisite to producing a Neighbourhood Plan and undertaking any other neighbourhood planning in the parish. The whole of the Parish is a logical area to designate.

**Other Alternatives Considered:** Designating a smaller area would preclude the Parish Council from addressing any issues which may emerge in other parts of the Parish during the course of the preparation of a neighbourhood plan.

**Risk Assessment:** There are no specific risks associated with the designation of the Congresbury Neighbourhood Area.

**Financial Implications:**

The decision is within the relevant budget of the Directorate and the overall budget is not projected to be overspent. Government funding is available to cover North Somerset Council’s costs in designating the neighbourhood area. A sum of £5k can be claimed retrospectively.

**Implications for Future Years:**

The approval of the Neighbourhood Area does not have any direct budgetary implications. North Somerset Council is required to assist the community in neighbourhood planning and to fund the examination of any neighbourhood plan or community right to build order and any resultant referendum. The costs of this, however are borne by Government funding.

Signed..............................

The Executive Member for Strategic Planning, Highways and Transportation, Concessionary Fares, Car Parks, Housing, Gypsies and Travellers and Economic Development

Dated...........28/8/15.............................

**Confirmation of Advice Given**

Signed..................................Director of Development & Environment

Dated..............................2/9/15..........................