

# EAST BOLDON FORUM

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## **Application for formal designation of East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum and Statement of compliance with section 61F(5) of the 1990 Act**

### **1. Background**

East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum (the Forum) was formally designated by South Tyneside Council (STC) on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018. Designation was for a period of five years from the designation date and therefore expires on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. Since designation, the Forum's Executive Committee have worked alongside Forum members and local residents to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the Forum Area. This was approved by in a referendum held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by a majority of 1362 in favour and 70 against. The Neighbourhood Plan is now taken into account by STC in determining planning applications within the Forum Area.

At a meeting of the Forum held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022, members present agreed that the Forum should continue to operate as a Neighbourhood Forum and apply to STC to be so designated for a further five years.

### **2. Compliance with section 61F(5) of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act applied to Neighbourhood Plans by section 38A of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011**

In this paragraph, we set out how the Forum satisfies the requirements of this legislation.

By virtue of the above legislation, a neighbourhood forum must demonstrate that it meets the following conditions:

- a) 'it is established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of an area that consists of or includes the neighbourhood area concerned'

**Evidence:** This purpose is set out in the Objectives included in the Forum's Constitution – attached as **Appendix 1**.

b) 'its membership is open to and includes a minimum of 21 individuals each of whom either:

- (i) lives in the neighbourhood area concerned,
- (ii) works there (whether for a business carried on there or otherwise), or
- (iii) is an elected member of a county council, district council or London borough council any of whose area falls within the neighbourhood area concerned,

**Evidence:** Full details of Forum membership as at September 26<sup>th</sup> is set out in **Appendix 2 – Equality and Diversity Report.**

c) 'whose membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area concerned and from different sections of the community in that area.'

**Evidence:** A map showing the distribution of current Forum membership as at September 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 is included in **Appendix 2 – Equality and Diversity Report.**

d) 'it has a written constitution.'

**Evidence:** The Forum's current constitution is attached as **Appendix 1**

### **3. Neighbourhood Forum Area**

The geographical area of the Forum was established in the application to STC for designation in October 2017. At the time it was stated that in the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan for either Cleadon or West Boldon, the boundary proposed would address the best interests of the community. These circumstances haven't changed, so it is proposed that the Forum area is unchanged. A map showing the Forum area is attached as **Appendix 3.**

### **4. List of Forum Executive members and membership summary**

**Appendix 4** includes a list of the current Forum Executive members and a summary of overall membership and mailing list.

## **Membership Profile Including Equality and Diversity**

Membership is open to all those above the age of 16 who live or work whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise in the East Boldon Neighbourhood Area, and to elected Council members for the area.

The total membership of the proposed Forum currently stands at 179 members who have completed membership forms. A breakdown of membership is included in as listed in **Appendix 2, Equality & Diversity report.** The membership is drawn from different parts of the Neighbourhood Area and from different sections of the community, including:

- Local residents from different parts of the area
- People who work there (whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise)
- Local ward councillors

**Appendix 2** includes a breakdown of the membership under the above category headings to help illustrate the nature and mix of members and demonstrate compliance with legislative requirements.

This confirms that, of the 179 members, 175 are residents of East Boldon, 1 works in East Boldon (whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise) and 3 are ward councillors.

The nature, spread and composition of the membership meets the necessary legislative requirements for the purposes of seeking designation as it closely reflects the demographic profile of this overwhelmingly residential community as demonstrated in the Appendix 2, Equality and Diversity report. In the five years since the Forum was first designated in 2018, there has been no significant change in the number or type of households in East Boldon.

The Forum will continue to actively encourage new members to promote the inclusivity and representativeness of the membership.

The Forum has a written constitution (at **Appendix 1**) which clearly sets out the aims, objectives and governance arrangements for the Forum.

### **Conclusion and Application**

The members of the Neighbourhood Forum are committed to implementing the Neighbourhood Plan for East Boldon, whilst also conforming with national and local planning policy frameworks.

Constructive working relationships have been established with officers of South Tyneside Council and this has provided a positive impetus and foundation to take forward neighbourhood planning in East Boldon.

We believe that the re-designation of the Neighbourhood Forum (and corresponding designation of the Neighbourhood Area) will provide a continuing formal platform for the community to work together, with the Council, to plan positively and creatively for the future development of East Boldon through the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Please accept this document as a formal application for Neighbourhood Forum designation for the five year period from January 2023.

**Signed:**



**Kirstin Richardson**  
**Chair, East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum**