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 12/13 DE 62

SUBJECT: Backwell Neighbourhood Area.

Background: Backwell Parish Council were given government Front Runner funding in April 2011 to support the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The first step in this process is to designate a Neighbourhood Area to which the Neighbourhood Development Plan will relate. Although work was able to commence on the preparation of the plan itself, the designation of the Neighbourhood Area had to await the enactment of relevant sections of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and Localism Act 2011 earlier this year.

Backwell Parish Council submitted an application to designate a Neighbourhood Area on 16 April 2012. The proposed Neighbourhood Area relates to the whole of the Parish of Backwell. This was duly advertised by North Somerset Council in accordance with the above regulations. Three responses have been received, all in support.

The inclusion of the whole of the Parish of Backwell in the Neighbourhood Area is logical and allows the Parish Council to explore any issues which emerge throughout the Parish area.

Decision: The application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for the Parish of Backwell is approved in accordance with the application received on 16 April 2012.

Reason: The designation of the Neighbourhood Area is a pre-requisite to enable Backwell Parish Council to produce their Neighbourhood Plan and 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 Plan’s preparation.
**Risk Assessment:** There are no specific risks associated with the designation of the Backwell Neighbourhood Area.

**Financial Implications:**

The decision is within the relevant budget of the Directorate and the overall budget is not projected to be overspent. A Planning Front Runners grant of £20,000 was received to support production of the Neighbourhood Development Plan in Backwell. It is anticipated that this will be sufficient to fund the Neighbourhood Development Plan process, particularly the examination and referendum.

**Implications for Future Years:**

The approval of the Neighbourhood Area does not have any direct budgetary implications. The production of the Neighbourhood Development Plan was given government Front Runner funding of £20,000 in April 2011. Backwell Parish Council is working to produce the Neighbourhood Development Plan within this budget. North Somerset Council are required to fund the examination of the plan and any resultant referendum, the costs of which it is anticipated can largely be borne by the Front Runners funding.

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

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

Dated……………………………………...

**Confirmation of Advice Given**

Signed....................................................Director of Development and Environment

Dated………………………………………