

Committee: Cabinet

Date: Tuesday, 14
April 2026

Title: Henham Neighbourhood Plan Area
Designation Application

**Portfolio
Holder:** Cllr John Evans, Portfolio Holder for Planning

**Report
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Officer

Key decision: No

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Summary

1. The Council received an application from Henham Parish Council for the designation of a Neighbourhood Plan Area on 08 January 2026.
2. In accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (Amended 2015 and 2016) the application is for the whole Henham Parish area, and the Council is required to designate the specified area as a neighbourhood plan area.

Recommendations

3. To designate the Parish of Henham as a Neighbourhood Development Plan Area.
4. It is recommended that the Council formally supports and adopts the proposed Neighbourhood Area as submitted in Appendix 2. This area encompasses the entirety of the Henham Parish Council administrative boundary and shall be officially designated as the Henham Neighbourhood Development Plan Area.

Financial Implications

5. The Council will grant £5,000 to Henham identified as one of the 6 Larger Villages that is proposing to accommodate non-strategic allocations through a neighbourhood plan. The grant will contribute £2,500 to the cost for a Strategic Environmental Assessment and the other £2,500 will assist with the Neighbourhood Plan general costs, including publicity/ consultation.

Background Papers

6. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Uttlesford Local Plan 2021-2041(Emerging

Impact

7.

Communication/Consultation	No consultation is required as per regulation 5A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment Regulations 2016.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	<p>The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (“2010 Act”) which requires the council, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the 2010 Act; • advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it; • foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. <p>There are no anticipated impacts on equalities arising from the proposals contained within this report.</p>
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	<p>The Localism Act 2011, through amendments to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, gave Parish Councils and designated ‘Neighbourhood Forums’ powers to prepare Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders.</p> <p>The Human Rights Act 1998 imposes a duty on the council as a public authority to apply the European Convention on Human Rights, as a result the council must not act in a way which is incompatible with these rights. Such rights include (but are not</p>

	limited to) Article 8 (respect for private and family life); Article 6 (right to a fair trial) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (right to peaceful enjoyment of property). These proposals here are not considered will breach any of the Human Rights Act 1998 provisions
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	Henham Parish
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

8. The Council received an application from Henham Parish Council for the designation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan Area on 08 January 2026. This request was made under Section 5-7 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as Amended 2015 and 2016).
9. No consultation is required as per regulation 5A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment Regulations 2016 but the Designation Decision is required to be published on the Council website.
10. The application includes the requisite map relating to the parish, a statement explaining why the area is considered appropriate for designation as a neighbourhood area and a statement confirming that the application has been made by a relevant body i.e., Parish Council in this case (see Appendix 1).
11. The Parish Council has confirmed that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area is contiguous with the Parish Boundary of Littlebury Parish Council (see Appendix 2). The Parish Council consider that this is the appropriate area to be designated as it is the area administered by Henham Parish Council.
12. As the application is for the entirety of the parish council area, with no part falling outside the parish boundary, the Council is obliged to approve the proposed "neighbourhood area" for the purposes of a neighbourhood plan. (Regulation 5A (1), Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012).
13. At this stage no ideas have been developed about the type of policies which the Plan would include. However, this would be led by the Parish Council and their public consultation. To be accepted the Neighbourhood Development Plan cannot propose less housing than that stipulated in Core Policy 3 Settlement Hierarchy and Core Policy 19 Rural Area Housing Requirement Figure provided in the current Uttlesford Local Plan 2021-2041. The Henham Neighbourhood Development Plan should also have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations.

Risk Analysis

14.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Not providing direct financial funding	2 - Some risk	3 - Not meeting the Rural Areas Housing Requirement over the Plan period 2021-2041.	Council Funding support will offset this risk.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.