

Local Plan Task Group (14 May 2024): Neighbourhood Planning update

1. Summary

1.1 Alongside the ongoing Local Plan examination, the Planning Policy Team’s other major area of responsibility is neighbourhood planning. During the 2023-24 financial year, 5 Neighbourhood Plans were successfully made. Others are expected to come forward during the current (2024-25) monitoring period.

1.2 This report summarises the progress and/ or current stage of preparation for individual Neighbourhood Plans.

2. Recent progress with Neighbourhood Plans

2.1 As of March/ April 2024, there were 19 “made” (adopted) Plans in place. Details of recently made (since April 2023) and emerging Neighbourhood Plans are set out as follows.

“Made” Neighbourhood Plans (2023-24)

	Current position
Burnham Market Neighbourhood Development Plan 2022-2036	Passed at referendum, 21 September 2023; “made” 26 September 2023
Gayton and Gayton Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036	Passed at referendum, 9 November 2023; “made” 20 November 2023
Old Hunstanton Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036	Passed at referendum, 8 February 2024; “made” 15 February 2024
Stoke Ferry Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036	Passed at referendum, 24 August 2023; “made” 29 August 2023
Watlington Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036	Passed at referendum, 7 December 2023; “made” 13 December 2023

Emerging Neighbourhood Plans

	Current position
Grimston, Pott Row, Roydon and Congham Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2036	Examination commenced August 2023; publication of Examiner’s report, May 2024 ; anticipated to go to referendum, summer 2024
Marshland St James	Preliminary draft Plan due to go to consultation with Environment Agency/ Historic England/ Natural England (summer 2024), regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Habitat Regulations Assessment – further work needed before publication; 1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation anticipated late summer/

	early autumn 2024
North Wootton Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036	Submitted, 12 September 2023; followed by pre-examination (Regulation 16) consultation (finished 24 November 2023). Examination now underway (as at April 2024) – examination anticipated to conclude late summer/ early autumn 2024
Pentney Neighbourhood Plan	1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation March-May 2023; Plan submission anticipated late-2024
Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan	Submitted, 22 April 2024 ; currently undergoing legal check; followed by pre-examination (Regulation 16 consultation) (summer 2024) Examination anticipated to commence late summer/ early autumn 2024 .
Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan Review	Comprehensive review/ full replacement of current Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2026 (made October 2017). Preliminary draft Plan due to go to consultation with Environment Agency/ Historic England/ Natural England (summer 2024), regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Habitat Regulations Assessment – further work needed before publication; 1 st draft Plan (Regulation 14) consultation anticipated late summer/ early autumn 2024
In addition, several other Parishes are designated Neighbourhood Areas, but progress with plan-making is unknown or at an early stage	Burnham Overy (designated 5 December 2023); Dersingham; Docking (designated 22 December 2023); Downham Market; Great Massingham; Ingoldsthorpe; Outwell; Shouldham; Syderstone; Tilney St Lawrence; Walpole; West Dereham

3. Conclusion and Recommendation

3.1 Strong progress was made with delivering Neighbourhood Plans during the previous (2023-24) financial year. The following Neighbourhood Plans have reached submission stage, meaning that all are expected to come forward to referendum during the 2024-25 financial year:

- Grimston, Pott Row, Roydon and Congham Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2036

- North Wootton Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036
- Walpole Cross Keys Neighbourhood Plan Review

3.2 Up to 4 further Neighbourhood Plans may be submitted for examination during 2024-25. This could allow them to come forward to referendum during 2025, potentially by spring 2025 (i.e. during the current financial year). However, it is more likely that these would go to referendum during 2025-26.

3.3 This report is presented to the Local Plan Task Group for information. It is recommended that the Task Group 'Notes' this report.