

Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Referendum



Information Statement

The Referendum

A Neighbourhood Planning Referendum will be held for the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan on Thursday 12 December 2024.

The referendum will ask you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to the following question that will be printed on the ballot paper:

Do you want Chelmsford City Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Danbury to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

This question is specified in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012¹.

Who can vote

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if on Thursday 12 December 2024:

- they are entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum area; and
- their qualifying address for the election is in the Referendum area. A person's qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which they are entitled to be registered.

The referendum will be conducted based in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections.

The Referendum Area

The referendum area is the same as the neighbourhood plan area, which was designated by Chelmsford City Council on 9 June 2016. It is also the same as the parish boundary. There is a map on page 2.

Referendum expenses

Individuals or groups can incur costs during the period of the referendum for the purposes of campaigning in association with the referendum. There is a limit to the amount of expenses for the referendum, which is £4,710.29. The number of persons entitled to vote by which that limit has been calculated is 3,981.

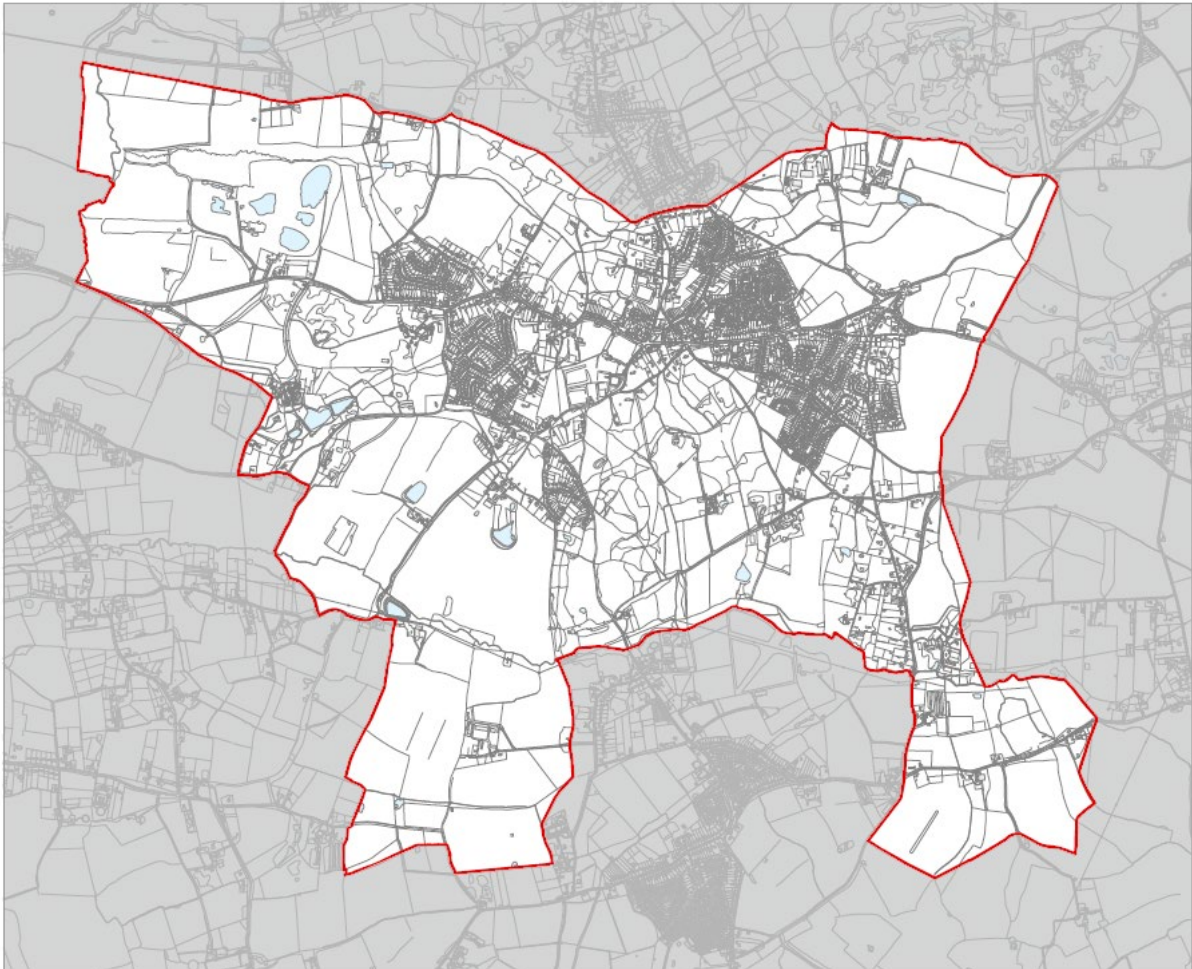
¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2012/9780111525050/schedule/1/paragraph/1>

Referendum result

The result of the referendum will be announced on Friday 13 December 2024. If the majority of those who vote support the draft Plan by voting 'yes', the plan will become part of the Chelmsford Local Plan and will be used to help decide planning applications.

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Chelmsford Local Plan.

Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Area



Specified documents

There are a number of documents which the legislation specifies we must publish.

These are:

- The draft Danbury Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036;
- The report of the independent Examiner;
- A summary of the representations submitted to the independent Examiner;
- A Decision Statement by Chelmsford City Council that the draft Plan meets the basic conditions and Convention rights;
- A statement containing basic information about the referendum; and

- A statement containing general information about town and country planning and neighbourhood planning (this statement).

All these documents can be viewed on Chelmsford City Council's website:

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/upcoming-elections/

The documents are also available to view as follows:

- Customer Service Centre, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JE (Monday to Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm).
- Danbury Parish Council, The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury, Chelmsford CM3 4NQ. Please contact the Parish Council on 01245 225111 for opening times

About the Chelmsford Local Plan

Local planning authorities, such as Chelmsford City Council, are required to have a development plan in place to set out the planning policies for its area. This is set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004².

We adopted the Chelmsford Local Plan 2013-2036 in May 2020. In it, we identify the number and locations for houses, jobs and businesses we are planning for, along with the infrastructure needed to support growth. Applications for planning permission have to be decided using the policies contained within the Local Plan.

About the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan

Town and parish councils, or other organisations, can take the lead in creating neighbourhood development plans, community plans and orders for planning in their area.

The Danbury Neighbourhood Plan has been developed by Danbury Parish Council (DPC), known in legislation at the Qualifying Body. It covers the whole of the parish, and includes local planning policies and proposals for improvements.

Following submission of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to the Council it was publicised and comments were invited during May to June 2024.

The Council appointed an independent Examiner to examine whether the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B (Paragraph 8(2))³ to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum.

The Examiner's Report, received on 26 September 2024, recommended a number of modifications to enable the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan to comply with the basic conditions and legal requirements, and that the plan as modified should proceed to referendum.

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/19>

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/schedule/4B/crossheading/independent-examination>

The Council agrees that the draft Danbury Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a local referendum within the Neighbourhood Area.

The Referendum Version of the Plan is the final version of the Plan and includes the recommended modifications.

Further information

If you need further help to access documents, please visit www.chelmsford.gov.uk/danburyplan or call the Planning Policy helpline on 01245 606330.

For further queries on the referendum or voter registration please visit www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/ or contact Electoral Services on 01245 606449.