

Nick Timothy, Member of Parliament for West Suffolk



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

22 September 2025

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to you to ask you to restore funding for Neighbourhood Plans following your predecessor's announcement earlier this year that the Government was stopping funding from this year onwards.

As you will know, neighbourhood plans — introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and strengthened by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 — are crucial for helping communities outline the kind of housing and infrastructure needed, and where it should be built.

The decision to cut funding is a huge blow to the neighbourhood planning initiative. With major housing construction planned in West Suffolk by 2041, far from cutting local voices out of the planning process, decision-makers should be listening to local people more.

The 2024 Labour Manifesto [said](#): **“Local areas will be able to gain new powers over transport, adult education and skills, housing and planning, and employment support. We will ensure those places have the strong governance arrangements, capacity, and capability to deliver, providing central support where needed.”**

The removal of funding for neighbourhood plans explicitly goes against this aspiration. This is even more worrying, given that the Government has called neighbourhood planning an **‘undeniable success’**.

It was then also striking to see that, earlier this year, the Government [announced](#) funding for the Plan for Neighbourhoods in 75 areas across the country but no community in West Suffolk was included in the list of those receiving funding.

I ask you to look again at this. Funding for neighbourhood plans across the country should be restored and enhanced. Every area in the UK deserves the resources to contribute to planning strategy and decisions in their local area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Timothy".

Nick Timothy
Member of Parliament for West Suffolk

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