

Key Decision Details

Decision Name	Self-Designation of the Great Ouse Valley Way
Date of Decision	21 April 2026
Decision maker	Cabinet
Describe the Decision taken	<p>The Cabinet has</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) reviewed and commented on the attached document entitled 'Arkwood Report' which sets out the rationale, options and implications of pursuing self-designation for the Great Ouse Valley and Washes;(2) noted the financial and resource commitments required to progress this work, including the significant Officer time need for coordination, engagement and governance development;(3) noted and accepted that the majority of the Ouse Valley Way lies outside Huntingdonshire's administrative boundary, requiring cross-authority collaboration and limiting the HDC's direct influence;(4) noted and considered uncertainties arising from forthcoming local government reorganisation, including the lack of clarity on future revenue streams and HDC's ability to resource this work sustainably over the medium term;(5) agreed<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) that HDC should not proceed with further, detailed work with the

GOVT in respect of self-designation at this time for the reasons set out in this report. As such, HDC's involvement is limited to activities relating to partnership and collaboration with the GOVT based on the principles of Influence and Enable within the Corporate Plan;

(b) that authority be delegated to the Place and Climate Lead in consultation with the Executive Leader, to formally write to the GOVT, to outline the position and thank them for their partnership and engagement to date; to provide confirmation that HDC recognises the value of the GOV within Huntingdonshire as a result of the various contributory formal designations (e.g. ecological and heritage) and its relationship with our Place ambitions; and to advise that HDC will continue to collaborate with them on the basis of the "Enable" and "Influence" principles from the Corporate Plan; and

(b.i) to note the findings of the Arkwood Report and the great advantages in a self-designated Great Ouse Valley for the health, biodiversity, landscape and, most importantly, the

economy of our region.

What were the reasons for taking the Decision?	As outlined within the report.
What alternative options were considered and rejected?	As outlined within the report.
Conflict of interest and dispensation	
Is the decision a Key Decision?	Yes
Was the decision included in the Forward Plan	Yes
Was the decision subject to the urgency proceedings?	No
List the background papers to any report considered by the Decision Taker	
Person Making this report	Harriet Robinson, Place & Climate Lead
Decision will be effective the day after call-in expires. Call-in expires on	29 April 2026
Accompanying Documents	Self-Designation of the Great Ouse Valley Way Appendix 1 - Arkwood Report Supplement - Self Designation of the Great Ouse Valley Way