

Sustainability Appraisal

Moulton Neighbourhood Plan

Moulton Parish Council

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Contents

1.	Purpose of this document	4
2.	Stage A: Identified Key Sustainability Issues.....	5
3.	Stage B: Developing Sustainability Objectives for the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan.....	7
4.	Stage C: Sustainability Assessment Appraisal.....	11
5.	Stage D: Conclusion.....	12
6.	Appendix 1: Sustainability Appraisal Table.....	13
7.	Appendix 2: SEA Screening Report.....	14
8.	Appendix 3a: Response from Historic England	54
9.	Appendix 3b: Response from Natural England	58
10.	Appendix 3c: Response from Environmental Agency.....	60

Sustainability Appraisal

1. Purpose of this document

Sustainability Objectives and the delivery of sustainable development.

- 1.1. This sustainability appraisal has been prepared in support of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan (MNP).
- 1.2. Moulton is a village parish approximately 4.5 miles South of Northwich and 3 miles North of Winsford within the Cheshire West and Chester borough of Cheshire.
- 1.3. This document looks to use the Sustainability Objectives set out in the Cheshire West and Cheshire Local Plan (2015) to produce Sustainability Objectives specific for Moulton, which will go towards assessing the Vision, Objectives and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.4. This document therefore seeks to link the neighbourhood plan in sustainability terms with the adopted Local Plan to steer the sustainability appraisal.
- 1.5. It is important that the methodology chosen is robust, but also proportionate taking account of the fact that the MNP does not seek to allocate sites, and is for a discrete area.
- 1.6. The sustainability appraisal will be carried out using the following broad method:
- 1.7. Stage A – Analysis of Identified Key Issues
- 1.8. Stage B – Formulation of Sustainability Objectives for the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan which take their lead from those set out in the CWaC Local Plan but are tailored to the local scale and characteristics of town.
- 1.9. Stage C – Sustainability Assessment Appraisal (as required)
- 1.10. Stage D – Conclusion as to the overall compatibility of the Neighbourhood Plan with its

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 1.11. Cheshire West and Chester have undertaken a SEA screening exercise and concluded that an SEA would not be required for this Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.12. For further details on this and for the SEA Screening Report please see the Environmental Assessment Statement submitted in support of the Neighbourhood Plan along with the responses from the statutory consultees.

Sustainability Appraisal

2. Stage A: Identified Key Sustainability Issues

2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) discusses three dimensions to sustainable development; economic, social and environmental. This section will highlight the key sustainability issues under these three overarching themes.

2.2. Data has been extracted from a variety of sources including the 2011 Census and the Moulton Village Survey which was conducted for the purposes of formulating the Neighbourhood Plan, the Village Design Guide and the Parish and emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

Economic:

2.3. The Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan part two (2015) states that Moulton is considered to be a rural Local Service Centre where an appropriate amount of development should be expected, in relation to the existing services and facilities. However, the public transport system does not reflect this status. A minimal amount of buses service the village throughout the day and the night service is virtually non-existent. This contradicts the Local Plan's ambition of promoting a night time economy in both Northwich and Winsford.

2.4. Moulton has a high level of employment with 72.1% of the population being economically active; higher than the local and national average. The main employment zones can be found in both Northwich and Winsford, and as a result there is a high level of car ownership compared to the local and national average, which might be explained by the limited public transport infrastructure in the Parish. The ability to access facilities within the Parish

and the ease with which residents can travel around is considered central to promoting sustainable development in the Parish.

2.5. Traffic in the area is perceived to be a problem. The census revealed that 80% of the working population use a car or van along narrow roads to get to work, primarily in Winsford or Northwich. This exacerbates the on-street car parking issue which can be found on many of the roads in the Parish, especially on Main Road, as highlighted by the community

Social:

2.6. Demographically, the Parish of Moulton has a range of different age groups. However, the Parish is predominantly of an older population where 45% are 60+. The population of Moulton is also older than the national average, making Moulton an older person's location.

2.7. The 2011 Census reveals that the Parish is predominantly white British with 98.1% of the population, much higher than the national average (80.5%). Asian British is the second highest ethnic group who call Moulton home with 0.6% of the population.

2.8. Moulton provides a primary school for the Parish (Moulton Primary School) which is located at the heart of the village. The school also provides a nursery and after school clubs and can boast an Ofsted rating of 'Good'. There are other primary schools in the nearby areas of Davenham and Leftwich and secondary education facilities are available in the nearby at Northwich and Winsford. Access to higher education results in families travelling outside of the Parish, as the lack of a good public transport network promotes the use of a private vehicle.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.9. Health indicators suggest that public health (in the 'very good' category) is generally better in Moulton than the national average. Also the percentage of those rating their health as 'very bad' is much less than the national average. 9.6% of the population however, is the percentage of the population whose day-to-day activities are limited by a long term health problem or disability (including problems that are related to old age) which constitutes much higher than the national average (8.5%).
- 2.10. Moulton's household composition is predominantly made up of family households (73.1%) which indicates it is a village for families rather than one person household's (however single ownership does constitute 24.6%). A high proportion of housing in Moulton is owner-occupied either outright or via a mortgage at 41.5% which is higher than the national average which suggests that village is a relatively affluent area. There is a desire to provide a wider variety of dwelling types specifically bungalows and homes to accommodate all.
- the early 1930s, and more recently two developments along Jack Lane and Beehive Lane. As a result the village has an interesting villagescape with a wealth of heritage assets and listed buildings. The setting of these structures will be required to be preserved or enhanced by new developments
- 2.13. Moulton does not reside in the Green Belt.
- 2.14. The area encompassing the settlement boundary to the North, East and South was designated as an area of significant local environmental value in the Vale Royal Local Plan (2006). The area around the river Weaver and the Weaver Navigation has been designated as an area of Special County Value and a Local Wildlife Site. Although policies H1 and GP1 do not allow for development to be situated outside of the village boundary (except for agricultural), future proposals must consider possible impacts to these areas (for example the visual impact).
- 2.15. There have been no significant pollution incidences within Moulton. The biggest threat to pollution in the Parish is through transport and traffic. Furthermore, there are currently no significant air quality issues relating to road traffic or otherwise in Moulton. The vast majority of the Parish does not lie within a Flood Risk zone, however the Weaver Navigation is identified as being a Flood Risk area along its course.

Environment:

- 2.11. The Parish is situated in mid Cheshire and its landscape typifies the designated Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain character profile which is made up of flat, or gently undulating, lush, pastoral farmland. The views and vistas the landscape provides is a treasured asset for the community and one which should be protected and enhanced at all costs.
- 2.12. Due to the village largely being developed during the 19th century, a tight compact settlement area was formed where the road network comprises of rural narrow roads. There is a mix of housing types ranging from the salt workers terraced housing along Regent Street, council housing dating from

Objectives Chart

3. Stage B: Developing Sustainability Objectives for the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan.

3.1. Stage B details how the Sustainability Objectives for Moulton have been developed (see table below). These 12 Sustainability Objectives are set out against the identified key issues in the Parish. The third column shows the 12 Sustainability Objectives for Moulton that have been created by using those in the Cheshire West and Chester's Sustainability Appraisal and adjusting them based on the key issues identified in the Parish.

Table 1: Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Sustainability Objectives and the adapted sustainable objectives for the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan:

Sustainability Objectives of the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan	Identified Key Issues in the Parish	Moulton's Sustainability Objectives (MSO) based on the realised key issues and the Cheshire West and Chester Sustainability Objectives
A. To maintain and enhance landscape and townscape quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moulton is a compact, isolated settlement from Davenham however, urban extensions on the edge of the village has narrowed the settlement gap. The landscape, being slightly topographically elevated, benefits from long views down to the Weaver Navigation as well as the internal village views looking across fields and valleys. 	MSO1: Maintain and enhance the landscape and villagescape quality of the Parish
B. To promote biodiversity and geodiversity through protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area around the river Weaver and Weaver Navigation are designated as a local Wildlife Site. Although the Neighbourhood Plan will not allow for non-agricultural development outside the 	MSO2: Protect, maintain and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of the Parish, as well as field boundaries, small ponds, and stands of trees within the landscape

Objectives Chart

	settlement boundary, future development must respect the views towards these areas.	
C. To protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish includes a wealth of heritage assets including those that are designated as listed buildings whose setting will be required to be preserved and enhanced by new development. The landscape is an important historical asset, offering links to the cultural heritage 	MS03: Protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings in Moulton
D. To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change is an important developmental consideration in both rural and urbanised areas and new development should take all measures to adapt to future impacts from this. 	MS04: Ensure that new development in Moulton adapts to, and helps mitigate the impacts of climate change
E. To encourage prudent use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan encourages the use of energy saving techniques and the use of sustainable resources and materials through Policy GP2 (Sustainable Development) 	MS05: Preserve the natural resources of the Parish, including its field boundaries, water bodies, and stands of trees, and protect and enhance the green infrastructure by optimising the reuse of previously developed land.
F. To reduce flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of the Parish falls outside the flood risk area along the banks of the river Weaver. The plan does not support development that is located outside of the village boundary. 	MS06: Manage the potential risk of flooding in the Parish.

Objectives Chart

G. To improve availability of sustainable transport options to jobs and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport has declined markedly and the majority of residents in Moulton travel to work by private motor vehicle. There is an extremely high level of car ownership compared to the local and national average which might be explained by the limited public transport infrastructure. 	MS07: Create a sustainable community in Moulton that has good access to jobs, services, facilities and sustainable forms of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport.
H. To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant identified issues with regards to this. 	MS08: To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems
I. To create mixed and balanced communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographically, Moulton is characterised by a population that is less ethnically diverse is increasingly older than the national average 	MS09: Ensure that all needs and abilities of the residents of Moulton are considered
J. To promote safe communities, reduce crime and fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of crime in Moulton is low compared to national averages. 	MS010: Create a safe environment to live in and reduce fear of crime.
K. To improve the health of the population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health indicators suggest that public health is generally better in Moulton than the national average. 	MS011: Create an environment in Moulton that promotes healthy and active lifestyles.

Objectives Chart

L. To enable improved community participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Parish has a wealth of community buildings providing a variety of uses for all residents.• The enhancement and protection of existing community facilities are an important element of the plan.	MS012: Maintain the function of Moulton as a vibrant rural community
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Sustainability Appraisal

4. Stage C: Sustainability Assessment Appraisal

Detailed Assessment Methodology

- 4.1. Appendix 1 shows the full details of the sustainability appraisal undertaken for the vision, objectives and policies in the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan. These are set out in a matrix to ensure that, where possible, all the Sustainability Objectives are addressed in some part.
- 4.2. Within the sustainability matrix each of the elements described above, were considered against the 12 Sustainability Objectives to check that there are no serious conflicts and that the policies and objectives set would have a positive influence or effect the wider sustainability issues of the Parish and the Borough of Cheshire West and Chester.
- 4.3. Each vision, objective and policy is assessed on a five-point scale as shown below:

Strong Positive Influence or Effect	2
Positive Influence or Effect	1
Neutral Influence or Effect	0
Negative Influence or Effect	-1
Strong Negative Influence or Effect	-2

- 4.4. For a score of 2 to be given, the policy or objective must directly address a particular sustainability objective. For example, a policy dealing with sustainable transport would likely get a 2 against the sustainable transport sustainability objective.
- 4.5. In many cases, the impact will be neutral, as the sustainability objective and the policy

topic may be completely unrelated. However, care must be taken to ensure that residual effects (for example effects of surface runoff from new developments) are not ignored.


- 4.6. Not all of the objectives will be relevant to all of the policies, however, it is important that the vision, objectives and policies each meet at least one objective.

Findings

- 4.7. All of the objectives and policies tested arrived at a positive score.
- 4.8. Of the objectives and policies assessed, perhaps two had notably low scores when assessed against the Sustainability Objectives for Moulton. These were; Objective 3 Sustainable Economic Development and Objective 5 housing Provision, and policies H4, T2 and T.asp.
- 4.9. Each of these policies deal with matters in the Parish which are very specific to the Sustainability Objectives and therefore only satisfy a small number of these.
- 4.10. In the main, many of the policies are predicted to have a strong positive benefit to achieve the Sustainability Objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal

5. Stage D: Conclusion

- 5.1. Overall, the assessment identifies no potential conflicts with the Sustainability Objectives.
- 5.2. The policies, objectives and the vision are considered to comply with the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Objectives and subsequently those set in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan.
- 5.3. In areas where a specific conflict occurs, it is considered that policies and programmes at the local level are able to satisfactorily address these concerns. The Neighbourhood Plan will work alongside the guidance in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan and decisions made considering both documents, as such the Neighbourhood Plan should not repeat guidance or controls elsewhere.
- 5.4. As a result, it is considered that the vision, objectives and policies within the MNP positively contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in line with the requirements set by the Basic Conditions of the Town and County Planning Act 1990 

Appendix 1: Moulton Sustainability Appraisal Table - Vision and Objectives & Policies

	Strong positive influence / effect	2												
	Positive influence / effect	1												
	Neutral influence / effect	0												
	Negative influence / effect	-1												
	Strong negative influence / effect	-2												
Moulton NP Vision, Objectives and Policies	Moulton NP Sustainability Objectives ->	MSO1: Maintain and enhance the landscape and villagescape quality of the parish	MSO2: Protect, maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the parish, as well as field boundaries, small ponds, and stands of trees within the landscape	MSO3: Protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings in Moulton	MSO4: Ensure that new development in Moulton adapts to and helps mitigate the impacts of climate change	MSO5: Preserve the natural resources of the parish, including its field boundaries, water bodies, and stands of trees, and protect and enhance the green infrastructure by optimising the reuse of previously developed land	MSO6: Manage the potential risk of flooding in the parish	MSO7: Create a sustainable community in Moulton that has good access to jobs, services, facilities and sustainable forms of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport	MSO58: To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	MSO9: Ensure that all needs and abilities of the residents of Moulton are considered	MSO10: Create a safe environment to live in and reduce fear of crime	MSO11: Create an environment in Moulton that promotes healthy and active lifestyles	MSO12: Maintain the function of Moulton as a vibrant rural community	Score:
Vision														
MNP Vision		1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	12
Objectives:														
Local Character and Heritage		2	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9
The Natural Environment		2	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Sustainable Economic Development		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Traffic and Transport		0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	7
Housing Provision		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	4
Services and Amenities		0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	2	9
General Principles Policies:														
GP1 Settlement first		2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	9
GP2 Sustainable development		1	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	10
Housing Policies:														
H1 Key Settlement Gap		2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
H2 Location of new residential development		1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	6
H3 Infill		2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
H4 Mix		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	4
H5 Development of Regent Street		1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	9
Design and Heritage Policies:														
DH1 General Design		2	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	9
DH2 Heritage Assets		2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
DH3 Streets and Footpaths		1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	11
Environment & Open Space:														
EO51 Natural Environment & Biodiversity		2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
EO52 Local Greenspace		2	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	13
EO53 Green Infrastructure		2	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	12
EO54 Key Views		2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7
Transport														
T1 Sustainable Transport		0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	8
T2 Parking		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	4
T Aspiration 1		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	4
T3 Traffic Management		0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	2	10
Community Facilities & Tourism														
CFT1 Community buildings		1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	2	10
CFT Aspiration 1		0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	2	8
CFT2 Developer Contributions		1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	2	10
CFT3 Tourism		2	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	13
CFT Aspiration 2		1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	10

Strategic Environmental Assessment,
Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats
Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion
for Moulton Neighbourhood Plan

Prepared on behalf of Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group by Cheshire
West and Chester Council

December 2017

Screening based on the Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan
version 5 (Nov 2017)

Contents

1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening	7
3.0 Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening	21

Appendix 1: Overview of policies and identified effects of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan.

1.0 Introduction

This screening opinion determines whether or not the draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and/or a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and 92/43/EEC, and the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the responsible authority (i.e. the Local Planning Authority) must carry out an environmental assessment for any plan or programme that is prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, which sets the framework for future development consents of projects listed in Annex I or II of Council Directive 83/337/EEC. It is likely that Development Plan Documents (DPDs), such as the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies and Neighbourhood Plans will require SEA as they will contain planning policies that influence the above list of topics, and which will be used to determine planning applications.

However, the regulations state that an environmental assessment need not be carried out for a plan or programme which determines the use of a small area at a local level unless it has been determined that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

The regulations advise that a screening process is used to determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This process should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the regulations). The results of this process must be summarised in a SEA screening opinion, which is then sent to the statutory consultation bodies for comment. Once comments have been taken into account a screening determination is prepared setting out whether SEA is required and reasons for the decision and this must be made publicly available.

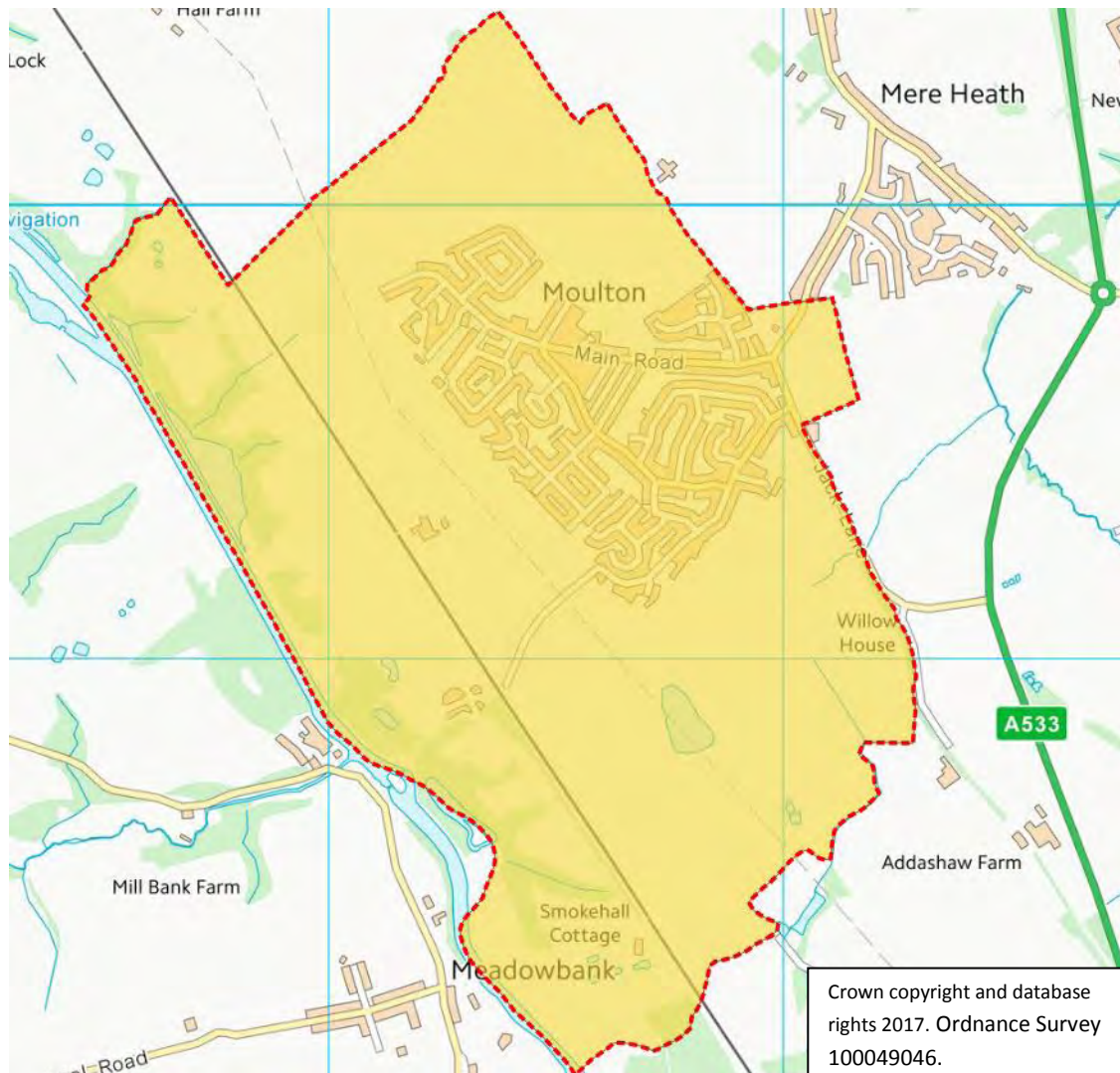
This screening opinion has been based upon the policies set out in the Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Development Plan (v5 November 2017).

Location and geographical scope of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Area covers the parish of Moulton. The Parish is within the Davenham and Moulton Ward of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The village of Moulton supports a population of 2,370 (2011 census) and is located approximately 4 miles south of the town of Northwich and 3 miles north east of Winsford.

A map showing the Neighbourhood Plan Area is set out in Map 1, below.



Relationship to other plans and programmes

Once 'made' the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. The policy framework once made will not work in isolation. The Neighbourhood Plan will work alongside the adopted Local Plan policies in place at the time it is made.

The Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to national policy; be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan; must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and meet EU obligations and human rights requirements.

The current adopted Local Plan for the area is Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) – Strategic Policies (adopted January 2015). This plan sets out the

overall vision, strategic objectives, spatial strategy and strategic planning policies for the borough to 2030. Some of the policies in the Vale Royal Borough Local Plan (adopted 2006) and the Cheshire Replacement Minerals and Waste Local Plans are to be retained alongside the Local Plan (Part One) until such time that they are to be replaced by the Local Plan (Part Two). Preparation of the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies began in Autumn 2014 and has reached the Publication consultation stage (December 2017).

The existing and emerging Local Plan policy framework has been taken into account when carrying out the screening exercise. This forms the baseline for the SEA and HRA screening assessment. It has considered the potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above the current adopted Local Plan (Part One) and the remaining policies in the Vale Royal Borough Local Plan.

Scope of Neighbourhood Plan

The Moulton Neighbourhood Plan seeks to build upon the policy framework in the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies. It has the following vision statement:

“Moulton Parish aims to have a thriving and prosperous community which delivers a high-quality lifestyle for all its residents. The parish supports a strong local economy that has a positive relationship with the natural environment, promotes sustainable development that meets the needs of local people, and incorporates excellent design standards to mitigate flood risks and climate change impacts”.

The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are:

1. To promote sustainable development that is in-keeping and respects the character of Moulton Parish and that respects the variety of heritage assets, community, and recreational facilities of the village.
2. To protect and preserve Moulton’s identified local greenspaces, and the natural environment surrounding the village of Moulton.
3. Encouraging economic growth in the parish through controlled expansion of existing businesses and enterprises, whilst promoting the village as an attractive place for new economic activity.
4. The Neighbourhood Plan should encourage development which takes appropriate consideration of their impacts on the parish and promotes sustainable modes of transport and public transport throughout the parish.
5. To ensure that the village’s population is sustainable, by providing the right housing, in terms of type and tenure, to accommodate all ages, needs and lifestyles.
6. To preserve the village’s existing services and to provide new ones, in order to improve the quality of life enjoyed by existing and future residents.

The draft plan includes a suite of policies covering the following themes:

- General Principles
- Housing
- Design and Heritage
- Environment, Open Space and Tourism
- Transport
- Community Facilities and Tourism

These policies work within the strategic framework set by the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies. The proposed policies in the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan do not propose a level of development outside of the levels proposed in the local plan or significantly alter the planning policy position for the area, nor does the plan allocate specific sites for development. It provides local level guidance on how the future development set by the Local Plan should come forward.

2.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Legislative Background and Methodology

European Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA Directive) to be carried out for certain plans and programmes to assess their effects on the environment. This Directive was transposed in law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Neighbourhood Development Plans fall within the scope of this legislation. They are a plan as defined by Article 3(2) of the SEA regulations and Regulation 5 paragraph 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. However, Neighbourhood Plans are land use planning documents prepared at the local level to determine land use in a small area.

Under Article 3(2) of the SEA Directive and Regulation 5 paragraph 6 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is only required for documents that determine land use in small areas at the local level where it is considered that they are likely to have 'significant environmental effects'. This is carried out through a screening determination.

Screening methodology

The role of the screening exercise is to determine whether the effect of the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The criteria for assessing whether a plan or programme is likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The assessment criteria used to determine whether a plan or programme will have significant environmental effects are separated into two categories:

- those relating to the characteristics of the plan; and
- those relating to the characteristics of the plan's effects and of the area likely to be affected.

The assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan against these criteria is set out in Table 1 and the assessment against the criteria relating to the characteristics of the plans effects and the area likely to be affected is set out in Table 2.

A key part of the Neighbourhood Plan screening has been to consider the context of its preparation and its interaction with the emerging Local Plan (Part One): Strategic Policies for Cheshire West and Chester. In order to inform this assessment a review of the anticipated effects of the draft policies and their relationship to policies at the Local Plan level was carried out. This is set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

Table 1: Assessment of the significant environmental effects of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan

1. Characteristics of the plan		Significant environmental effect?
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is a local level land use planning document to determine land use in a small area. Once made, it will work within the planning policy framework of the Local Plan for the borough.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a local planning policy framework for Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Area that will become part of the development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. It is required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan. The Moulton Neighbourhood Plan will not impact on the strategic location, nature, size and operating conditions of new development over and above that set by the adopted Local Plan. It will however provide local level guidance within the strategic framework on the nature of development in the Moulton Neighbourhood Area brought forward and the mitigation and enhancement measures required in order to minimise any impacts. The Neighbourhood Plan policies will work alongside the strategic policies in the development plan; other development management measures and environmental protection legislation.</p> <p>On this basis, significant environmental effects are unlikely at this stage.</p>	No
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will be the lowest level of planning policy for the area. It has to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It will therefore have limited influence over changing the policies in plans at the higher strategic level or lead to the development of further plans below it.</p>	No

The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is required, as one of the basic condition tests, to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Whether this basic condition is met will be tested during the examination of the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the framework for the promotion of sustainable development is set by the Government's Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Planning Policy Framework and the policies in the adopted Local Plan for the borough. The Neighbourhood Plan will have limited influence over changing the sustainable development policies in plans and policies at the higher strategic level.</p>	No
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Plan Part One is a comprehensive overview of the issues in Cheshire West and Chester. There are no specific additional environmental problems identified for the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Some of the environmental issues/problems identified specific to Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Area are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimising the impact on identified heritage assets, seeking to protect and, where appropriate, enhance them. - Maintaining and enhancing the existing hedgerows, trees and waterbodies - Incorporating effective design and landscaping to support biodiversity - Protecting the character, significance and community value of identified Local Green Space and the countryside beyond the settlement boundary. - Incorporating new green infrastructure into developments to mitigate against the impacts of climate change and ensuring new development does not impact on wildlife corridors. - Promoting accessibility by modes alternative to the car. 	No

The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will have no direct role in the delivery of community legislation on the environment. It does include policies on these matters. The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment screening as set out in Part Two of this document.</p>	<p>No</p>
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Table 2: Characteristics of the plan's effects and of the area likely to be affected

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Potential benefits to population and human health	Probably difficult to assess as depends on the scale and nature of the development. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.	Each new development has the potential to benefit the local population and health but would be dependent on the nature and scale of the development. Cumulatively several developments may be able to realise and bring about community benefits that one development in	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level	None	None	None	None	No

¹ The assessment here has considered whether the effect of the policy goes beyond the UK and impacts upon other EU territories. Given scale and nature of Neighbourhood Plan the effects are not considered to be transboundary.

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
		isolation may not.								
Benefits to population and human health through supporting improvements to community assets and infrastructure.	Probability difficult to assess as depends on proposals coming forward. Impacts could be seen in the short, medium and long term and could be reversed.	Cumulatively several developments may be able to realise and bring about community benefits that one development in isolation may not.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level	None	None	None	None	No
Benefits to population and human health of new housing and economic development, including local affordable housing and housing to	Probability and frequency depends on the nature, scale and details of proposed development coming forwards. The plan allows for some limited housing	Each new development has the potential to benefit the local population. There would be greater potential to maximise these benefits if several developments could have a synergistic	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
meet local needs.	development of appropriate scale and location, hence impacts are likely to be infrequent. Effects would be long term. The Plan also identifies a brownfield site within the settlement boundary for residential development	cumulative effect.								
Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure.	Probability difficult to assess as depends on proposals coming forward. Impacts could	New development has potential to strengthen and enhance community assets and improve infrastructure.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	Potential positive impact on local community assets.	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	be seen in the short, medium and long term and could be reversed.	Cumulatively several developments may be able to realise and bring about community benefits that one development in isolation may not.								
Benefits to population and human health through addressing impacts of new development on local facilities and community infrastructure	Probability is likely to depend on the nature, scale, and details of development proposals. Impacts would be long term and reversible.	None as the effect should be to reduce and manage potentially negative cumulative impacts resulting from new development.	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No
Protection and enhancement of footpaths	Probability is difficult to assess as	Each new development has the potential to	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
and provision of green infrastructure for the local population	dependent on the nature, scale, and details of proposed development, however proposals are likely to be infrequent. Impacts would be long term and irreversible.	benefit the local population. There would be greater potential to maximise these benefits if several developments could have a synergistic cumulative effect e.g. joining individual areas of green infrastructure			level.					
Potential effects (loss or harm) to cultural heritage assets and the village character and design	Low, infrequent probability. Neighbourhood Plan objectives aim to protect and enhance the built environment and character of Moulton. Policies aim to	Cumulative effects are dependent on the precise nature and location of new developments coming forward.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	Moulton has a number of listed and locally listed buildings and a Scheduled Monument, so has cultural heritage value.	None	None	Potential positive impacts on protection of the character of Moulton village.	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	ensure designs are sensitive to the character and buildings with high quality design. Effects would be short, medium and long term.									
Enhancement and protection of biodiversity	High probability of achievement in all new developments, depending on their nature, scale, and details. Impacts would be long term.	Each new development has the potential to enhance and protect biodiversity. There is a greater potential to maximise these benefits as the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect a high level of biodiversity and ensure that	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
		development does not detrimentally impact on the quality and quantity of wildlife.								
Potential effects on landscape (loss or harm) and protection and enhancement of the landscape	Low, infrequent probability. Neighbourhood Plan objectives aim to ensure sensitive sustainable development that protects and enriches the landscape and built setting of the village. Policies recognise the value of Local Green Space and landscape and key gaps between	Potential negative impact of development, however criteria have been included to ensure this is limited and the Plan identifies Local Green Space.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	villages. . Effects would be short, medium and long term.									
Management and mitigation of traffic impacts	Probability difficult to assess as depends on proposals coming forward. Policy supports minimising and managing traffic impacts of development on the village and provision of parking. Impacts could be seen in the short, medium and long term and could be reversed. .	None as the effect should be to reduce and manage cumulative traffic impact as a result of new development.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified.	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Retention and protection of views	Low probability as unlikely to be large scale development in the village. The Plan protects countryside outside the settlement boundary through policy criteria, designating Local Green Space and identifying Key Views. Impacts would be permanent and long term.	There is a potential small positive cumulative effect. However, development contrary to these policies could have a large negative cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level.	Moulton has a number of heritage assets so has cultural heritage value.	None	None	None	No
Positive impacts of design on human health	Probably difficult to assess as depends on the scale and nature of the	There is a potential small positive cumulative effect. However,	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	development. Impacts would be long term and irreversible. The plan includes policy to guide high quality design in new developments.	development contrary to these policies could have a negative cumulative effect.								
Improvement to human health through increased walking and cycling	Probability is difficult to assess as dependent on the nature, scale, and details of proposed development, however proposals are likely to be infrequent. Impacts would	Each new development has the potential to benefit the local population. There would be greater potential to maximise these benefits if several developments could have a synergistic cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	be long term and irreversible. Policies are included in the plan to encourage access to the countryside and access to development sites by walking and cycling and the protection of footpaths.									
Potential impact on climate through carbon reduction by promoting the use of public transport	Probability is difficult to assess as dependent on the nature, scale, and details of proposed development, however proposals are	Each new development has the potential to benefit the local population. There would be greater potential to maximise these benefits if several developments could have a	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	likely to be infrequent. Impacts would be long term and irreversible. Policies are included in the plan to promote cycling and walking,	synergistic cumulative effect.								
Positive effect on climatic factors through promotion of energy efficiency measures in new development	Probability is likely to depend on the nature, scale and details of proposed development coming forwards. Proposals are likely to be infrequent, however due to limited scale of potential development in	None	None	None	Local, small neighbourhood level	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies (see Appendix 1)	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	the neighbourhood plan area. Effects would be long term.									

Conclusion

As a result of the screening assessment, Cheshire West and Chester Council consider that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan. As such, a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan is not required.

3.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Legislative Background

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) transposed the requirements of the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC into UK law. The Habitats Directive and Regulations afford protection to plants, animals and habitats that are rare and vulnerable in a European context.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a systematic process through which the performance of a plan or project can be assessed for its likely impact on the integrity of a European Site. European Sites, also referred to as Natura 2000 sites, consist of Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC); Potential Special Protection Areas and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (pSPA and cSAC); and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is to screen a plan or programme to identify if there are likely to be any significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. This will indicate whether a full Appropriate Assessment is required. The regulations require that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed, are considered in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the relevant European site(s).

Inter-relationship with the Local Plan HRA

The Local Plan has already been through the HRA process, and the results detailed in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Publication Draft (Part One) Strategic Policies Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report. Each of the sites within 15km of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Area were assessed at the Local Plan level. This appraisal forms the baseline for the HRA screening assessment of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan with the prime consideration being the potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above those of the already assessed for the Local Plan. The Local Plan was screened out through this process, as not leading to a likely significant effect on European Sites.

It is considered that as long as the proposed policies of a Neighbourhood Plan do not alter the strategic policy framework assessed in the Local Plan (Part One) Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report then an additional separate full screening exercise on the Neighbourhood Plan will not be required. However, if the Neighbourhood Plan does change the strategic policy framework then a separate

Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report to assess the effect on European Sites would be required.

Context

There are 15 European designated sites within a 15km buffer from the boundaries of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Area. This comprises 4 Special Areas Conservation (SAC) over 2 sites (1x Oak Mere and 3 x West Midlands Mosses), 11 Ramsar sites (Midland Mere and Mosses 6 x phase 1 and 5 x phase 2) and no Special Protection Areas (SPA) sites.

These are shown in Map 2.

Outcome of high level screening

1. *Is the Neighbourhood Plan directly connected with, or necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation?*

No

2. *Does the Neighbourhood Plan propose new development or allocate sites for development?*

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan sets out how new development should come forwards in the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Area, within the context of the adopted Local Plan (Part One) (2015) policies and retained policies of the Vale Royal Local Plan (2006). It does not set a level of development as it reflects the quantum of development set out at the Local Plan level and the strategy for the rural area to direct development to key and local service centres.

The Neighbourhood Plan does allocate a site at Regent Street where suitable residential development will be supported.

3. *Are there any other projects or plans that together with the Neighbourhood Plan could impact on the integrity of a European Site?*

The Moulton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared within the context of the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan: Part One Strategic Policies and the retained policies in the Vale Royal Local Plan. The HRA of the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) identified that it could be screened out as not leading to a likely significant effect on European sites.

4. *Are there any potential impacts on the integrity of a European Site?*

The Neighbourhood Plan will not work in isolation and will be used alongside other development plan policies including the Local Plan Part One and retained policies in the existing Vale Royal Borough Local Plan for determining planning applications for new development. The quantum of development to come

forward in Moulton in the future will be set by Local Plan policy. The Neighbourhood Plan will guide how this should come forward locally.

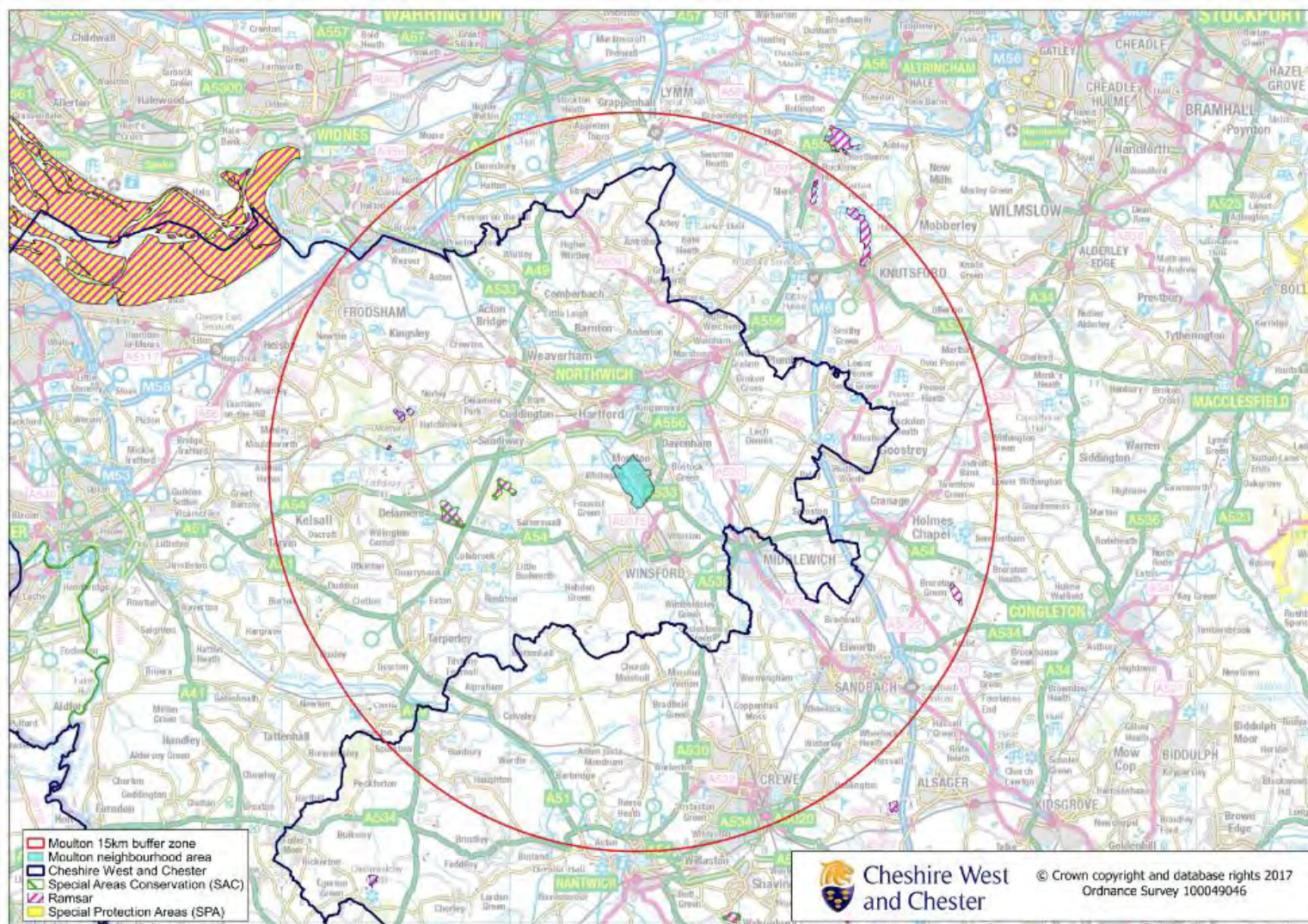
Whether the Neighbourhood Plan alters the policy position for the area, in terms of HRA requirement, is set out in table 3 below.

Table 3: Screening of policies for altering Local Plan Policy	
Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Change in policy position in Local Plan and policies to be retained?
Draft Policy GP1	No
Draft Policy GP2	No
Draft Policy H1	No
Draft Policy H2	No
Draft Policy H3	No
Draft Policy H4	No
Draft Policy DH1	No
Draft Policy DH2	No
Draft Policy DH3	No
Draft Policy EOT1	No
Draft Policy EOT2	No
Draft Policy EOT3	No
Draft Policy EOT4	No
Draft Policy T1	No
Draft Policy T2	No
Draft Policy T3	No
Draft Policy CFT1	No
Draft Policy CFT2	No
Draft Policy CFT3	No

There are no specific issues highlighted in the HRA of the Local Plan in relation to Moulton, although there are other more general potential impacts highlighted as a result of the quantum and location of development proposed for the borough as a whole in the Local Plan (Part One). However, it is considered there are sufficient mitigation and control measures in the policy framework of the Local Plan (Part One) to avoid and mitigate any of these adverse effects on the integrity of European in the Local Plan.

Therefore, it is considered that any proposals coming forward for Moulton in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan would not result in a likely significant effect on a European site than already identified and assessed through the Local Plan Part One Habitats Regulation Assessment Report. A separate full screening report is not required.

Map 2: European Designations within a 15km distance of the Moulton Neighbourhood Area Plan



Appendix 1: Overview of policies and identified effects of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and policies retained in the Vale Royal Borough Local Plan.
Draft Policy GP1 Settlement First	<p>Residential, commercial or community developments within Moulton Parish are to be focused within the village boundary. Applications for development outside the settlement boundary, unless for agricultural or recreational uses are unlikely to be supported.</p> <p>The village is to be promoted as a community hub and any development should contribute to reinforcing that role. Improvements to the parish services, infrastructure and community facilities to reinforce the role of the hub will be supported subject to compliance with other Neighbourhood Plan policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural heritage and landscape. • Protection of local character. • Positive effects to population and human health through supporting improvements to community assets and infrastructure. • Support for and retention of local services 	<p>STRAT9 – protects the character and beauty of the countryside and restricts development in the countryside to only that which requires a countryside location. directing development to local services centres.</p> <p>STRAT8 – New development, including infill will be accommodated at local service centres (Moulton is proposed as a local service centre in the Publication Local Plan (Part Two).</p> <p>ENV2 and ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the principle of landscape character protection and high quality design that respects local character.</p> <p>Policy GS5 of the Vale Royal Local Plan seeks to protect the character and appearance of the open countryside.</p> <p>BE1 of the Vale Royal Local Plan sets out general criteria for new development, including location and accessibility.</p>

			STRAT11 – supports the timely provision of additional facilities, services and infrastructure to meet identified needs, whether arising from new developments or existing community need.
Draft Policy GP2 Sustainable Development	<p>Development proposals which take the opportunity to mitigate and/or reduce the impact of climate change and attempt to uphold the principles of sustainable development as set out in the NPPF will be supported.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to achieve this by encouraging applicants to demonstrate that they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used appropriate building materials that aid in achieving a zero-carbon building - Promoted an appropriate layout, orientation and massing of development to maximise solar gain; - Explored the use of, and where possible included, on site renewable energy generation technology <p>Applications for small scale renewable energy infrastructure will be given favourable consideration where they are in compliance with other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive effects on climatic factors through promotion of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation in new development. • Benefits to population and human health (reduction in CO2 emissions (non-local)). 	<p>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design and sustainable construction that respects local character and incorporates energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation.</p> <p>BE1 – VRBC Retained Policy Safeguarding and Improving the Quality of the Environment</p> <p>BE21 – VRBC Retained Policy Renewable Energy</p>
Draft Policy H1 Location of new residential	<p>New residential developments in the parish will be supported where they lie within the village settlement boundary subject to criteria in H2 (infill) and H3 (housing mix). Proposals should be small in scale and must demonstrate how they</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive effects to population and human health through ensuring a mix and type of new housing to meet specific needs. • Protection of cultural heritage and 	<p>Local Plan (Part One) SOC1 and SOC3 supports the provision of a range of housing to meet local need.</p> <p>STRAT8 – New development, including</p>

development	<p>meet the local needs within the parish.</p> <p>Residential proposals outside the settlement boundary will be considered inappropriate and will likely be refused. Developments should avoid the village from merging with the nearby settlements of Davenham and Winsford. Residential applications which erode the gap between the village and nearby settlements will be resisted to retain the village's individual identify.</p>	landscape.	<p>infill will be accommodated at local service centres (Moulton is proposed as a local service centre in the Publication Local Plan (Part Two).</p> <p>STRAT9 – protects the character and beauty of the countryside and restricts development in the countryside to only that which requires a countryside location. directing development to local services centres.</p> <p>ENV2 and ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the principle of landscape character protection and high quality design that respects local character.</p> <p>Policy GS5 of the Vale Royal Local Plan seeks to protect the character and appearance of the open countryside.</p> <p>BE1 of the Vale Royal Local Plan sets out general criteria for new development, including location and accessibility.</p>
Draft Policy H2 Infill	<p>New development schemes on infill plots within the Village will be supported, subject to not conflicting with other development plan policies. Applications for infill sites that protect nearby residential amenity will be supported by the plan.</p> <p>In order to avoid inappropriate infill developments, all applications for infill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural heritage and landscape - retention of countryside • Protection of local character and amenity, 	<p>STRAT8 – New development, including infill will be accommodated at local service centres (Moulton is proposed as a local service centre in the Publication Local Plan (Part Two).</p> <p>STRAT9 – protects the character and beauty of the countryside and restricts development in the countryside to only that which requires a countryside location.</p>

	<p>development (including conversions) must;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be within the village settlement boundary, as identified on the proposals map; - Be of appropriate scale and plot size to the existing plots and dwellings neighbouring the site; - Be on a site bounded by existing properties on two or more sides fronting an existing highway; <p>To avoid dramatically increasing density within the village, adequate garden space should be provided in new developments and retained in adjoining properties.</p>		<p>directing development to local services centres.</p> <p>ENV6 – promotes sustainable, high quality design and construction which respects local character through appropriate layout and design.</p> <p>GS5 of the Vale Royal Local Plan sets out the protection of the character and appearance of the open countryside.</p>
<p>Draft Policy H3</p> <p>Housing Mix</p>	<p>Residential development proposals that deliver an appropriate housing mix that meets the needs of the community and contributes to the diversity of the parish's housing stock, will be supported. On all residential schemes in excess of 10 dwellings, they should deliver a mix of the following housing types, subject to viability, and deliverability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smaller properties especially for the elderly, including bungalows - Properties suitable for first time buyers - Family homes <p>Residential schemes that propose less than 10 dwellings are expected to provide a mix of housing types where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of appropriate type and mix of new residential development 	<p>Local Plan (Part One) SOC1 and SOC3 supports the provision of a range of housing to meet local need.</p>

	Additionally, applications must include a provision of affordable housing where appropriate and conform to the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan.		
Draft Policy H4 Development of Regent Street	The redevelopment of the land to the rear of Regent St locally known as the garage area (as shown on the proposals map) will be supported within this Plan subject to delivering a suitable housing mix and appropriate parking for new and existing residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of appropriate type and mix of new residential development 	<p>STRAT8 – New development will be accommodated at local service centres (Moulton is proposed as a local service centre in the Publication Local Plan (Part Two)).</p> <p>STRAT10 – new developments will be expected to provide adequate levels of car and cycle parking in accordance with the Council's parking standards.</p>
Draft Policy DH1 General Design	<p>Subject to other policies within the Neighbourhood Plan, new developments will be supported where it is demonstrated that they have delivered a high quality, contextually responsive design. The Moulton Village Design Guide (2009) should be used as guidance when proposals come forward. Proposals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be of appropriate scale, mass and density and provide an adequate plot size, in-keeping with the Cheshire character: red brick, grey roofing tile, and gable features; - Provide a mixture of housing types - Have active frontages, addressing the street - Avoid flat roofs where possible - Have adequate off-street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of local character • Positive impact on human health through provision of adequate living space • Provision of appropriate type and mix of new residential development 	ENV2 and ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the principle of landscape character protection and high quality design that respects local character.

	in accordance with policy T1 of the development plan		
Draft Policy DH2 Heritage Assets	New developments must take account of their impact on identified heritage assets, (both designated and non-designated) seeking to protect and, where appropriate, enhance them. Development schemes which demonstrate how they have safeguarded these heritage assets will be looked on favourably.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural heritage 	<p>ENV5 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of the historic environment and historic assets.</p> <p>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is sympathetic to heritage, environmental and landscape assets.</p>
Draft Policy DH3 Streets and Footpaths	<p>New development schemes that enhance or provide contributions to improving the quality of the public realm beyond the application site will be looked upon favourably, subject to other policies within the development plan. New development adjacent to existing footpaths and rights of way must take account of those routes by avoiding negative impacts on safety, visual appearance, surveillance and functionality of the routes, through careful layout and design.</p> <p>Boundary walls, fences and hedges on residential developments should be at an appropriate height and in-keeping with the character of the building and Moulton.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive effects on population and human health through the protection of local footpaths that support healthy lifestyles. • Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape 	<p>SOC 5 of Local Plan (Part One) supports safe and accessible environments and opportunities to strengthen cultural and leisure offer.</p> <p>SOC6 – Open space sport and recreation seeks to improve the quality and quantity of open space including public rights of way.</p> <p>ENV2 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the principle of landscape character protection. ENV3 and ENV4 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the retention of trees and hedgerows.</p> <p>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is sympathetic to heritage, environmental and landscape assets.</p>
Draft Policy EOT1 Natural Environment and	<p>New development proposals should consider their impacts on the biodiversity of the Parish.</p> <p>Planning applications should, where</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive effects on biodiversity through retention of hedgerows. • Protection of cultural heritage and landscape through retention of 	<p>ENV2 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the principle of landscape character protection. ENV3 and ENV4 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the</p>

Biodiversity	<p>possible seek to maintain and enhance existing hedgerows, trees and waterbodies within the Parish, as outlined in the Moulton Design Guide (2009).</p> <p>New developments should demonstrate how they have incorporated effective design and landscaping to support biodiversity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance existing sites where appropriate and not harm or negatively impact habitats and wildlife corridors, and where appropriate, create new wildlife corridors - Conform to the Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain designated national character area profile. <p>Specifically, developments should avoid negatively impacting trees and hedgerows at the following locations; if unavoidable, replacements of the same or better quality will be expected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the Village; - Around the Vicarage; - Main Rd (rear of Regent St); - Along riverside walk; 	<p>hedgerows and heritage features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of biodiversity. 	<p>retention of trees and hedgerows.</p> <p>ENV4 Biodiversity – development should not result in any net loss of natural assets.</p> <p>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is sympathetic to heritage, environmental and landscape assets.</p> <p>BE1 of the Vale Royal Local Plan sets out general criteria for new development, including the protection of trees and hedgerows. Further NE9 sets out considerations on trees and woodland.</p>
Draft Policy EOT2 Local Green Space	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan designates the following areas as Local Green Space due to their special character, significance and community value. The following sites (also shown on the proposals map) will be protected from developments that will lead to the loss of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of existing cultural heritage and landscape. • Protection and enhancement of the landscape. • Retention and protection of views. 	<p>STRAT9 – protects the character and beauty of the countryside</p> <p>Policy ENV2 Landscape – support the designation of Local Green Space</p> <p>Policy ENV3 of the Local Plan (Part One)</p>

	<p>these green spaces and should be consistent with Green Belt policies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Playing fields adjacent to the War memorial off Main Rd; - Area around the War memorial; - Area adjacent to Village Hall; - School sports field; - Recreational field; - Natural wetland site; - Weaver Rd play area; - Moulton children's playing field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of biodiversity. • Improvement to human health through increased walking and cycling. 	<p>supports the creation, enhancement, protection and management of a network of high quality multi-functional Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>Policy ENV4 of the Local Plan (Part One) identifies the importance of safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>Policy GS5 of the Vale Royal Local Plan seeks to protect the character and appearance of the open countryside.</p>
<p>Draft Policy EOT3</p> <p>Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>New development should incorporate new green infrastructure into their designs which will aid in mitigating against the impacts of climate change and where possible, ensure that they link to the wider green infrastructure network of the parish and to key pedestrian routes to create green links between developments.</p> <p>Any development which will negatively impact on wildlife corridors and green infrastructure (as highlighted in the proposals map) in the parish through its loss or significant reduction will not be permitted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of existing cultural heritage and landscape. • Protection and enhancement of biodiversity. 	<p>ENV3 – Green Infrastructure – supports increased planting of trees and woodland, particularly in urban areas and the urban fringe.</p>
<p>Draft Policy EOT4</p> <p>Key views</p>	<p>New development must not have negative impacts on the Key Views in the Parish (as identified on the Proposals Map). Planning applications will be required to demonstrate how they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforced, where relevant, the existing patterns of the streets, spaces and building lines and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of views. • Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape 	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Policy ENV2 supports protection of landscape character, making specific reference to protecting views.</p>

	<p>maintained views of key landmarks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retained and framed, where relevant, views of the wider countryside, landscape features and distant landforms; - Reflect the local character of these views through sympathetic design and materials, the use of appropriate vegetation types 		
<p>Draft Policy T1</p> <p>Sustainable Transport</p>	<p>New developments will be looked on favourably where they seek to promote accessibility by modes alternative to the car to and from the development site, and encourage a modal shift towards public transport, cycling and walking.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the creation of new, and/or connection to existing walking and cycling links should be demonstrated in the design of all new developments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive effect on climatic factors through supporting sustainable modes of travel. • Positive effects on population and human health through supporting schemes that would minimise traffic and promoting cycling and walking. 	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policy STRAT10 supports maximising the use of sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>STRAT11 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the provision of appropriate new infrastructure.</p>
<p>Draft Policy T2</p> <p>Parking</p>	<p>Proposals for all new developments will be required to demonstrate that they include adequate off-street parking provision.</p> <p>Where parking is proposed for residential development it should be provided on-site, or in courts, in accordance with the following requirements as stated in the Parking Standards SPD (2017, p.6):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Bed Dwellings: 1 space - 2/3 Bed Dwellings: 2 spaces - 4+ Bed Dwellings: 3 spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impact on climate through carbon reduction by promoting the use of public transport. • Management and mitigation of traffic impacts 	<p>STRAT10 – sets the criteria for new development in terms of access and parking provision.</p> <p>BE1 - Vale Royal Local Plan - states that development should incorporate adequate arrangements for access, servicing, safe vehicular access and egress arrangements and safe pedestrian access.</p>

<p>Draft Policy T3</p> <p>Traffic Management</p>	<p>Development proposals, regardless of scale and size should demonstrate that they have proportionally considered the wider impacts on traffic throughout the parish.</p> <p>Specific considerations should be given to ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe access and egress to the site; - Parking and servicing arrangement; - Proposals that improve road safety and promotes public transport will be supported by this Plan. Additionally, new developments should not cause negative impacts on traffic levels within the parish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive effects on population and human health through improving safety • Potential impact on climate through carbon reduction by promoting the use of public transport. • Management and mitigation of traffic impacts 	<p>STRAT10 – sets the criteria for new development in terms of access and parking provision.</p> <p>BE1 - Vale Royal Local Plan - states that development should incorporate adequate arrangements for access, servicing, safe vehicular access and egress arrangements and safe pedestrian access.</p>
<p>Draft Policy CFT1</p> <p>Community Buildings</p>	<p>The sites listed below are valued by the community for their recreation and amenity value. They should not be lost or harmed by development except in exceptional cases. In such cases appropriate replacement must be made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Stephens Church village hall - Moulton adventure group buildings (off School Ln) <p>Applications that safeguard, support, or improve the retention of the following buildings for community use within the village core will be strongly supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Stephens the Martyr Church; - Verdin Club, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure • Impact on health and well-being through provision of community facilities • Provision of improved health services 	<p>STRAT11 – supports the timely provision of additional facilities, services and infrastructure to meet identified needs, whether arising from new developments or existing community need.</p> <p>ECON2 of the Local Plan (Part Two) supports the retention of facilities and services.</p> <p>Policy SOC5 does support new or improved health facilities across the borough.</p>

	<p>- Church Hall</p> <p>Proposals promoting the construction of a new health centre, incorporating drop in facilities within the Village core will be supported by this Plan. New community proposals should be designed for a variety of uses to promote robust, sustainable development.</p>		
<p>Draft Policy CFT2</p> <p>Developer Contributions</p>	<p>The community have identified a range of local improvements which can be supported by development contributions arising from planning permissions being granted within the plan area. When negotiating development contribution agreements, the community would recommend that funding be allocated to the facilities below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Footpaths and walkways - Enlargement for educational facilities, either on existing site or elsewhere within the village. - Improvements to the Church Hall or the development of a new community building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure • impact on health and well-being through provision of community facilities. 	<p>STRAT11 – supports the timely provision of additional facilities, services and infrastructure to meet identified needs, whether arising from new developments or existing community need.</p>
<p>Draft Policy CFT3</p> <p>Tourism</p>	<p>Development proposals that will support small scale tourism related activities within the parish are supported, subject to protecting local amenity and ensuring effective parking</p> <p>Schemes which deliver the following improvements will be supported subject to other development plan policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By enabling greater appreciation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit to local population through enhanced economic opportunities (<i>economy no direct SEA topic</i>) • Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure 	<p>ECON3 – supports the expansion of existing tourism assets or the creation of new tourism opportunities.</p>



Historic England

Charlotte Aspinall
Place Strategy
Cheshire West and Chester Council
4 Civic Way
Elsmere Port
CH65 OBE

Our ref: PL00237582 & PL00237603
Your ref: E-mails 28th Nov & 3rd Dec 17
Telephone: 07500 121974

4th Dec 2017,

Dear Charlotte,

Re: SEA Screening Opinion and Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting Historic England about your Neighbourhood Plan. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment, Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process.

Your Neighbourhood Plan falls within the boundary of the Moulton Conservation Area and contains 3 buildings or structures listed in Grade II. It will be important that the strategy you put together for this area safeguards those elements which contribute to the significance of those historic assets. This will ensure that they can be enjoyed by future generations of the area and make sure it is in line with national planning policy.

The conservation officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council will be the best placed person to assist you in the development of the Plan with respect to the historic environment and can help you to consider and clearly articulate how a strategy can address the area's heritage assets. Although the neighbourhood area does contain a number of designated heritage assets, at this point we don't consider there is a need for Historic England to be involved in the development of the strategy for your area, but we offer some general advice and guidance below.



Historic England, Suite 3.3, Canada House, 3 Chepstow Street, Manchester M1 5FW
Telephone 0161 242 1416 HistoricEngland.org.uk

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Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.



If you have not already done so, we would recommend that you speak to the staff at Cheshire West archaeological advisory service who look after the Historic Environment Record and give advice on archaeological matters. They should be able to provide details of not only any designated heritage assets but also locally-important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes, I note from the draft plan that you have already provided evidence of non-designated heritage assets. Some Historic Environment Records may also be available on-line via the Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk). It may also be useful to involve local voluntary groups such as the local Civic Society, local history groups, building preservation trusts, etc. in the production of your Neighbourhood Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan is an important opportunity for a community to develop a positive strategy for the area's locally important heritage assets that aren't recognised at a national level through listing or scheduling. This includes identifying any non-statutorily designated historic buildings, sites, views or places of importance to the local community, and setting out what factors make them special. These elements can then be afforded a level of protection from inappropriate change through an appropriately worded policy in the plan. The plan could also include consideration of any Grade II listed buildings or locally-designated heritage assets which are at risk or in poor condition, and which could then be the focus of specific policies aimed at their enhancement.

I note that your draft plan takes the opportunity to identify Local Green Spaces. Green spaces are often integral to the character of place for any given area, and your plan could include policies that identified any deficiencies with existing green spaces or access to them, or aimed at managing development around them. Locality has produced helpful guidance on this, which is available here: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/neighbourhood-planning-local-green-spaces>.

You can also use the neighbourhood plan process to identify any potential Assets of Community Value in the neighbourhood area. Assets of Community Value (ACV) can include things like local public houses, community facilities such as libraries and museums, or again green open spaces. Often these can be important elements of the local historic environment, and whether or not they are protected in other ways, designating them as an ACV can offer an additional level of control to the community with regard to how they are conserved. There is useful information on this process on Locality's website here: <http://mycommunity.org.uk/take-action/land-and-building-assets/assets-of-community-value-right-to-bid/>.

Communities that have a neighbourhood plan in force are entitled to claim 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds raised from development in their area. The Localism Act 2011 allows this CIL money to be used for the maintenance and on-going costs associated with a range of heritage assets including, for example, transport infrastructure



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such as historic bridges, green and social infrastructure such as historic parks and gardens, civic spaces, and public places. As a Qualifying Body, your neighbourhood forum can either have access to this money or influence how it is spent through the neighbourhood plan process. Historic England recommends that the community therefore identifies the ways in which CIL can be used to facilitate the conservation of the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting, and sets this out in the neighbourhood plan. More information and guidance on this is available from Locality, here:

<https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/community-infrastructure-levy-neighbourhood-planning-toolkit/>

Further information and guidance on how heritage can best be incorporated into Neighbourhood Plans has been produced by Historic England. This signposts a number of other documents which your community might find useful in helping to identify what it is about your area which makes it distinctive and how you might go about ensuring that the character of the area is retained. These can be found here:

<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

The following general guidance also published by Historic England may also be useful to the plan forum in preparing the neighbourhood plan, or considering how best to develop a strategy for the conservation and management of heritage assets in the area. It may also be useful to provide links to some of these documents in the plan:

HE Advice Note 2 - making changes to heritage assets: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/making-changes-heritage-assets-advice-note-2/>

HE Good Practice Advice in Planning 3 - the setting of heritage assets:

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/gpa3.pdf/>

This guide is particularly useful for Neighbourhood Plans covering historic places that are subject to housing growth. It is important to understand the particular attributes of 'setting' that you wish to protect when establishing policies .

HE Advice Note 3 - site allocations in local plans: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans>

HE Advice Note 7 - local listing: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7>



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We recommend the inclusion of a glossary containing relevant terminology contained in the NPPF, in addition to details about the additional legislative and policy protections that heritage assets enjoy.

Finally, the Plan documentation is accompanied by a request for a formal Screening Opinion from Historic England in compliance with the *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations* 2004. The draft Opinion prepared by your Forum concludes that Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. We note that the Plan appears to propose no site allocations/policies which would have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment and as such we concur that in this regard Strategic Environmental Assessment is **not** required.

We should like to stress that this advice is based on the information provided by in your correspondence. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on or, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise as a result of the proposed neighbourhood plan, where we consider these would have an adverse effect on the historic environment.

If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Ratcliffe RIBA
Historic Places Adviser



Historic England, Suite 3.3, Canada House, 3 Chepstow Street, Manchester M1 5FW
Telephone 0161 242 1416 HistoricEngland.org.uk

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Date: 01 December 2017
Our ref: 232792
Your ref: Moulton Neighbourhood Plan



Charlotte Aspinall
Cheshire West and Chester Council
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Cheshire
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BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Charlotte

SEA Screening Report for Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 28 November 2017 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance¹. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter or for any new consultations please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer.
We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Salt
Consultations Team

Cheshire West and Chester Council
Planning Policy
4 Civic Way
Ellesmere Port
Merseyside
CH65 0BE

Our ref: SO/2009/105235/SE-10/SC1-L01

Date: 05 December 2017

FAO Charlotte Aspinall

Dear Madam

Draft SEA and HRA Screening Report for the Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting us with the above application which was received in this office 29th November 2017.

We have no comments to make with regards to the SEA and HRA screening report for the Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours faithfully

Ms DAWN HEWITT
Planning Advisor

Direct dial 02030250535

Direct e-mail dawn.hewitt@environment-agency.gov.uk

Sustainability Appraisal

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