

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**  
**Screening and Habitats Regulation**  
**Assessment (HRA) Screening Determination**  
**for Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall**  
**Neighbourhood Plan**

Prepared on behalf of Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan  
Steering Group by Cheshire West and Chester Council

**March 2017**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

In accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC and the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), this document is the screening determination of the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan. This document also sets out the decision on whether separate screening and a Habitats Regulations Assessment is required under European Directive 92/43/EEC 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.

A draft screening opinion was produced in July 2016 based upon the policies set out in the draft Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan (July 2016). The Council has a duty to consult four specified environmental organisations (Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England).

The statutory environmental bodies were consulted on 03<sup>rd</sup> August 2016. Details of the bodies consulted and the responses received are provided in Appendix 2. Responses were received from the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. The Environment Agency has no comment to make and Natural

England and Historic England agreed with the outcome of the initial screening exercise, that SEA is not required. This final screening determination reflects the comments made during the consultation.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan (February 2017) has been amended to reflect consultation responses. This Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Determination has been prepared to incorporate the working amendments made to the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Most of the amendments involved minor wording changes and do not change the general aims or policy approach for the Neighbourhood Plan. It is not considered that any of the amendments to the policies of the draft Neighbourhood Plan change the assessment and conclusions within the initial screening opinion in July 2016. The conclusion remains that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Likewise, the Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010), alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

### **Location and geographical scope of the Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan Area covers the parishes of Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall and Beeston, encompassing three villages that lie 10 miles east of the county town of Chester. The Parishes are within the Tattenhall Ward of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The whole length of the border between the parishes is an important corridor that carries the Chester to Crewe railway line, the Shropshire Union Canal and the River Gowy. This valley corridor gives both parishes strong common interests in terms of tourism, housing and commercial activities. The Parish boundaries extend to either side of the River Gowy, which runs alongside the Shropshire Union Canal. To the north of Tiverton lies Tarporley and to the East of Beeston is the village of Bunbury. To the West, 4 miles away, lies the village of Tattenhall. The villages are dissected by busy major routes – the A49, which leads to Shropshire in the South and the M56 in the North, and the A51, which leads to Crewe and the M6 in the South East and to Chester in the North West.

The Neighbourhood Plan Area has a population of 671 (376 in Tiverton, 107 in Tilstone Fearnall and 188 in Beeston) (Census, 2011). The population is spread across the Parishes within the three villages and in surrounding hamlets of Tiverton Heath, Tilstone Bank, Beeston Brook, Brassey Green, Hand Green, Redhill and Four Lane Ends.

Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Parish is within the former Chester District.

### **Relationship to other plans and programmes**

Once made, the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. The policy framework 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 Chester District Local Plan (adopted 2006) and the Cheshire Replacement Minerals and Waste Local Plans are retained alongside the Local Plan (Part One) until such time that they are to be replaced by the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies. Preparation of the Local Plan (Part Two) began in Autumn 2014. A Preferred Approach document was taken out for public consultation in August/September 2016.

The adopted Local Plan policy framework forms the baseline for the SEA and HRA screening determination. 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 Chester District Local Plan.

The key Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies applicable to Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall are:

- STRAT1 (Sustainable Development)
- STRAT2 (Strategic Development)
- STRAT9 (Green Belt and Countryside)
- STRAT10 (Transport and accessibility)
- STRAT11 (Infrastructure)
- ECON1 (Economic growth, employment and enterprise)
- SOC1 (Delivering affordable housing)
- SOC3 (Housing mix and type)
- SOC 5 (Health and well-being)
- SOC6 (Open space sport and recreation)
- ENV2 (Landscape)
- ENV3 (Green infrastructure)

- ENV4 (Biodiversity and geodiversity)
- ENV5 (Historic environment)
- ENV6 (High quality design and construction)

The Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Assessment Directive and a screening exercise under the Habitats Directive. This determination has considered the effects of the neighbourhood plan in this context. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan (Part One) sets out the impacts of the strategic policies that apply to Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall.

### **Scope of Neighbourhood Plan**

The Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan seeks to build upon the policy framework in the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies. It has the following vision and aims:

#### The Vision for Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall:

*Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall will retain its rural character and be a peaceful, beautiful and safe places to live and work. The environment, historic landscape and features will continue to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The three villages will remain as distinctive communities with their own identities that will be enriched by small-scale changes to the built environment. Residents will be able to enjoy a good quality of life, with safe and sustainable transport options, and through access to a range of local businesses, services and social opportunities. The parishes will be well connected with the wider world via excellent utilisation of modern technologies.*

Key aims of the Neighbourhood Plan are:

- Manage housing growth to 2030;
- Ensure that the residential development of single detached or semi detached dwellings in keeping with adjacent properties continues to contribute to the range of housing available in the villages;
- Encourage small-scale development that enhances economic sustainability and employment opportunities;

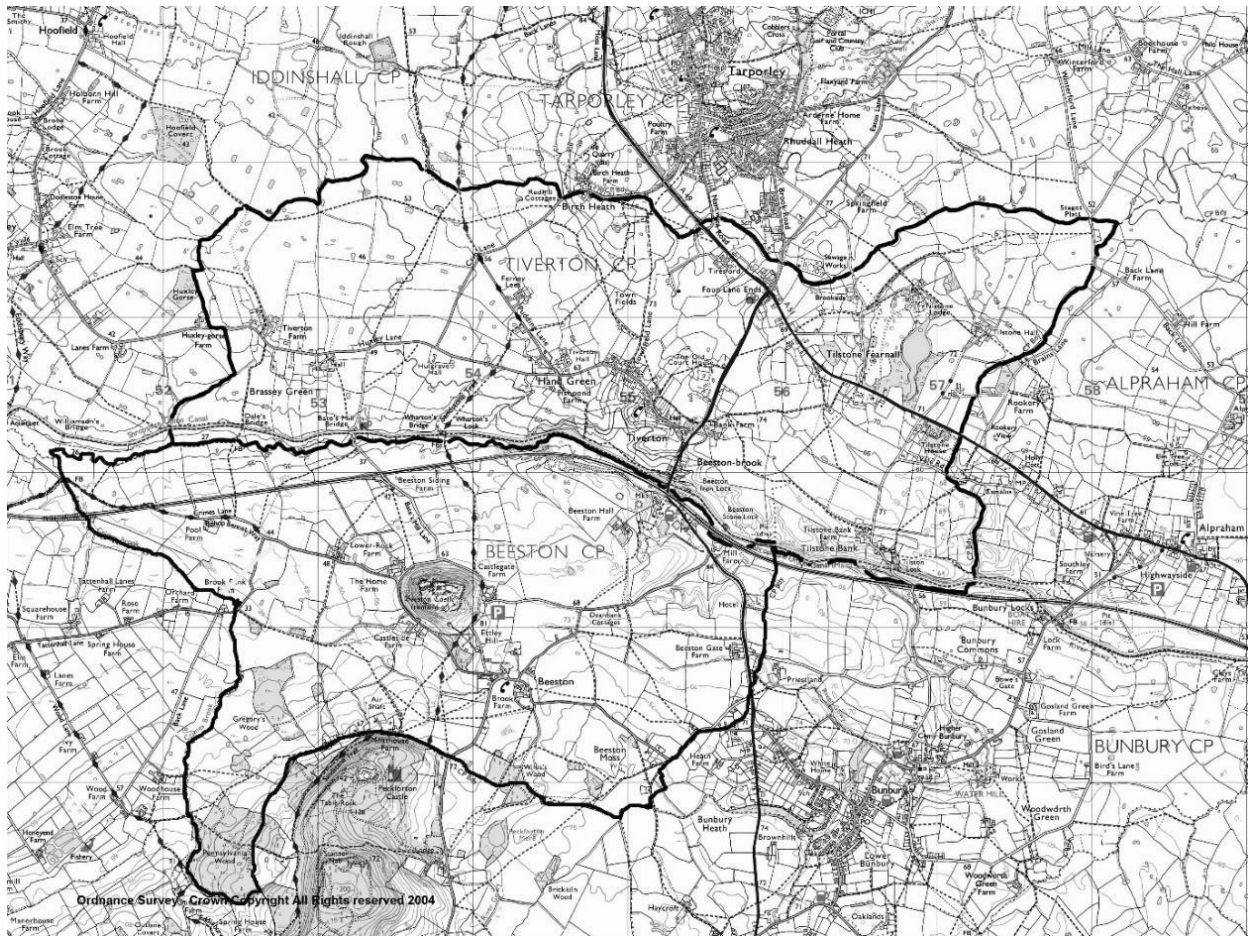
- Support the proposed provision of local retail outlets;
- Welcome measures that result in improvements to the safety and accessibility of the transport network;
- Preserve and enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets, historic buildings, the waterways and natural environment;
- Maintain rural tranquillity and dark skies;
- Sustain and safeguard long-standing and established community places, and;
- Seek improvements to the speed and capacity of the communications network.

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a suite of policies under the themes of:

- Built Environment
- Economic Development
- Transport
- Natural Environment
- Community assets and activities

These policies work within the strategic framework set by the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies. The proposed policies in the Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall 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.

**Map 1 – Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Area**





## **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.

The Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan falls within the scope of this legislation as it is a plan prepared for town and country planning or land use and will set the framework for future development consent of projects, in accordance with Part 3(2) of the SEA Directive. However, Neighbourhood Plans are land use planning documents prepared at the local level to determine land use in a small area.

Under Article 3(3) of the SEA Directive and Part 5(6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, SEA is only required for documents that determine land use of a small area at local level and minor modifications to plans and programmes where it is considered that it is likely to have significant environmental effects. Assessment of whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects is carried out through the screening process.

### **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 the criteria relating to the characteristics of the plan 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.

In order to assist with completion of Table 1, Table 2 and identification of the likely significance of effects, an assessment has been undertaken of each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan, its potential effects and its relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and retained policies in Chester District Local Plan. This helps to assess the impact that the Neighbourhood Plan will have above and beyond the impact of existing Local Plan policies. This assessment is set out in the table at Appendix 1.

For the purposes of this screening exercise significant is defined as:

“Something that is sufficiently large or important and is of greater scale than the neighbourhood level.”

The other key part of the Neighbourhood Plan screening has been to consider the context of its preparation and its interaction with the higher tier development plan - the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies for Cheshire West and Chester and the retained policies of the Chester District Local Plan (adopted 2006). 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 can be found in Appendix 1 to this report which sets out the exact nature of the neighbourhood plan policies and how they interact with the Local Plan. In summary the characteristics of the plan policies mean that:

- Any effects are likely to be small scale, local at the neighbourhood level.
- Many of the policies seek to minimise and control the impacts of new development.
- The plan does not set the level of development for the area. The strategic context for the Neighbourhood Plan has been set at the Local Plan level.
- Policies in the Plan encourage new development to respect the local built and natural environment, which is likely to have beneficial effects for cultural heritage and landscape.
- The Plan supports access and appreciation of the local countryside and natural features through encouraging protection of footpaths, key views, ponds and hedgerows. This is likely to have a beneficial effect for landscape and population and human health.

## **Conclusion**

In accordance with Part 2(9) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations Cheshire West and Chester consider that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan. A Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan is therefore not required.

**Table 1: Assessment of the significant environmental effects of the Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan**

<b>Characteristics of the plan</b>		<b>Significant environmental effect?</b>
<b>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,</b>	<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 for the borough, alongside the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a local planning policy framework for Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall 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 Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan will not impact on the location, nature, and scale of new development over and above that set by adopted Local Plan for the borough nor does it allocate sites for development. It will provide local level guidance within the strategic framework on the nature of development in the Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Plan policies will work alongside the strategic policies in the development plan, other development management measures and environmental protection legislation.</p>	No
<b>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.</b>	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.	No
<b>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular</b>	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	No

<b>with a view to promoting sustainable development,</b>	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.	
<b>What are the environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme?</b>	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 Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Area.	No
<b>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).</b>	The Neighbourhood Plan will have no direct role in the delivery of community legislation on the environment. It does include policies relating to environmental issues but these policies fit with the strategic framework provided by the Local Plan (Part One). The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment screening as set out in Part Two of this document.	No

**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 <sup>1</sup>	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?
Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape.	Frequency dependent on levels of development coming forwards which is likely to be small. The probability of this effect could be high, potentially occurring with each new development proposal depending on its nature, scale and details. Effects would be long-term and potentially irreversible.	Cumulative effects are dependent on the precise nature and location of new developments coming forward.	None	None	Local, small neighbourhood level.	The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains assets of local and national heritage and landscape value; however, the Neighbourhood Plan policies promote their protection.	None	None	None	No

<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>	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?
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 the neighbourhood plan area. Effects would be long term.	None	None	None	Local, small neighbourhood level	None	None	None	None	No
Positive effect on climatic factors through supporting sustainable modes of travel.	Probability is difficult to assess as it will depend on a proposal for a new rail station coming forwards. Frequency, therefore, is likely	None	None	None	Local, small neighbourhood level. Spatial extent of effect could extend beyond the neighbourhood area if new rail station	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 <sup>1</sup>	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?
	to be low and effects could be long-term.				came forwards.					
Benefits to population and human health through minimising negative development impacts	Probability is likely to depend on the nature, scale, and details of development proposals. Impacts would be long term.	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
Benefits to population and human health through provision of a mix and type of new housing to meet specific needs, including affordable/sheltered housing.	Probability and frequency depends on the nature, scale and details of proposed development coming forwards. Frequency dependent on levels of development	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 <sup>1</sup>	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?
	coming forwards - therefore, impacts likely to be relatively infrequent. Effects would be long term.	cumulative effect.								
Protection and enhancement of community assets.	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	Potential positive impact on the several community assets which have local or national protection.	No
Positive effects on population and human health through the protection of local footpaths that support healthy lifestyles.	Frequency dependent on levels of development coming forwards. Therefore, impacts likely to be relatively infrequent. Impacts would be long term.	Positive cumulative impact.	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 <sup>1</sup>	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?
Benefit to local population through protection and enhancement of economic opportunities.	Probability difficult to assess as it depends on the scale and nature of the development. Impacts could be experienced in the short, medium and long term and could be reversed.	There would be greater potential to maximise these benefits if several developments could have a synergistic cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No
Economic benefits of improving electronic communication networks and connectivity.	Frequency dependent on levels of development coming forwards, hence are likely to be relatively infrequent. Impacts would be long term.	Enhancing connectivity across the Neighbourhood Plan Area could have a synergistic cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No
Positive impact on biodiversity through creation and retention of habitats.	Frequency dependent on levels of development coming forwards, hence are likely to be relatively	Each new development has the potential to enhance and protect biodiversity. There is a greater	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level. Potential to link into wider habitat	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 <sup>1</sup>	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?
	infrequent. Impacts would be long term.	potential to maximise these benefits as the Neighbourhood Plan supports retention of habitats to create wildlife corridors.			networks.					
Effects on water and associated water-based flora and fauna.	Probability likely to depend on the location, nature and details of development proposals. Impacts could occur in the short, medium and long term and could be irreversible. Frequency dependent on levels of development and hence likely to be infrequent.	Cumulative effects are dependent on the precise nature and location of new developments coming forward.	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

### 3.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

#### Legislative Background

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended in 2012) transpose 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: '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 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies has been through the HRA process, and the results detailed in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Publication Draft (Part 1) Strategic Policies Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report.

The HRA for the Local Plan (Part One) identified 12 sites to include within the HRA as set out in table 3 below.

Table 3 – Natura 2000 sites relevant to the Local Plan (Part One)

European site	Reason for inclusion
Oak Mere SAC	Located within Cheshire West and Chester
Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site	Located within Cheshire West and Chester
West Midlands Mosses SAC	Located partly within Cheshire West and Chester

River Dee and Bala Lake SAC	Identified as a source of potable water for Cheshire West and Chester and also the receiving watercourse for waste water treatment works discharge
Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar	Located partially within Cheshire West and Chester
Dee Estuary SAC SPA and Ramsar site	Downstream of the River Dee which is identified as a source of potable water for Cheshire West and Chester. Development in the Borough also creates potential water quality pathways.
Liverpool Bay SPA	Located immediately downstream of the Mersey Estuary. There is therefore a potential water quality pathway through sewage effluent discharges, air quality from transport plans, disturbance of birds and recreational pressure
Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC	Included at the request of Natural Resources Wales
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore pRamsar and pSPA	Located within Merseyside downstream of the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar site. There is a direct link to development in through water quality
Sefton Coast SAC	Located within Merseyside and linked to development in Cheshire West and Chester through recreational pressure and water quality
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site	Located within Merseyside and is an indirect link to development in Cheshire West and Chester through water quality and recreational pressure
River Eden SAC	Haweswater Lake (to which the River is hydrologically connected) is likely to form part of the future water supply for Cheshire West and Chester.

The HRA undertaken for the Local Plan (Part One) forms the baseline for the HRA screening assessment of the Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan. The main consideration is the potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above those 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.

Whether the Neighbourhood Plan alters the policy position for the area is set out in Table 4 below. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan policies have been renumbered and

re-drafted since the July 2016 version which was subject to the initial SEA Screening. The detailed changes are set out at Appendix 1 of this report.

**Table 4: Screening of policies for altering Local Plan Policies**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Significant Change? Y/N</b>
BE1: NEW BUILT DEVELOPMENT	<b>N</b>
BE2: DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS	<b>N</b>
BE3: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	<b>N</b>
ED1: NEW EMPLOYMENT	<b>N</b>
ED2: CHARACTER AND SCALE of EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENTS	<b>N</b>
ED3: EXISTING BUSINESSES	<b>N</b>
ED4: RETAIL PREMISES	<b>N</b>
ED5: BROADBAND	<b>N</b>
ED6: RADIO AND TELECOMMUNICATION MASTS	<b>N</b>
T1: BEESTON RAILWAY STATION	<b>N</b>
NE1: BEESTON CASTLE	<b>N</b>
NE2: WATERWAYS	<b>N</b>
NE3: FOOTPATHS	<b>N</b>
NE4: VIEWS	<b>N</b>
NE5: STILES	<b>N</b>
NE6: TREE PLANTING	<b>N</b>
NE7: HEDGEROWS	<b>N</b>
NE8: PONDS	<b>N</b>
NE9: DARK SKIES	<b>N</b>
CP1: COMMUNITY ASSETS	<b>N</b>
CP2: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES	<b>N</b>

## Context

There are 16 European designated sites within a 15km buffer from the boundaries of the Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan Area. This comprises 5 Special Areas Conservation (SAC) over 3 sites (River Dee and Bala Lake, Oak Mere and 3 x West Midlands Mosses), 11 Ramsar sites (Midland Mere and Mosses 3 x phase 1 and 8 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 Neighbourhood Plan sets out how new development should come forward in Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall. It does not set a level of development as it looks to support that set out in the Local Plan (Part One). The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development but does safeguard land at the former Beeston Railway Station for future provision of a new rail station and associated facilities.

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

Yes, the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One): Strategic Policies, and the policies retained from the Chester District Local Plan.

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

No. The Neighbourhood Plan will not work in isolation and will be used alongside the other development plan policy documents for determining planning applications for new development. The level of development to come forward in Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall in the future has been set by Local Plan policy. The Neighbourhood Plan will guide how this should come forward locally.

Whether the Neighbourhood Plan alters the policy position significantly for the area, with reference to the potential impact on European sites, is set out below. Please note that this screening determination is based on the policies included in the submission draft Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan.

While some policies have changed from those in the pre submission draft plan which was subject to the original screening, the overall conclusion that there is unlikely to be any significant impact on European sites remains unchanged.

There are no specific issues highlighted in the HRA of the Local Plan (Part One) in relation to Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall, although there are other more general potential impacts highlighted as a result of the level and location of development proposed for the borough as a whole. It is considered, however, that 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 sites.

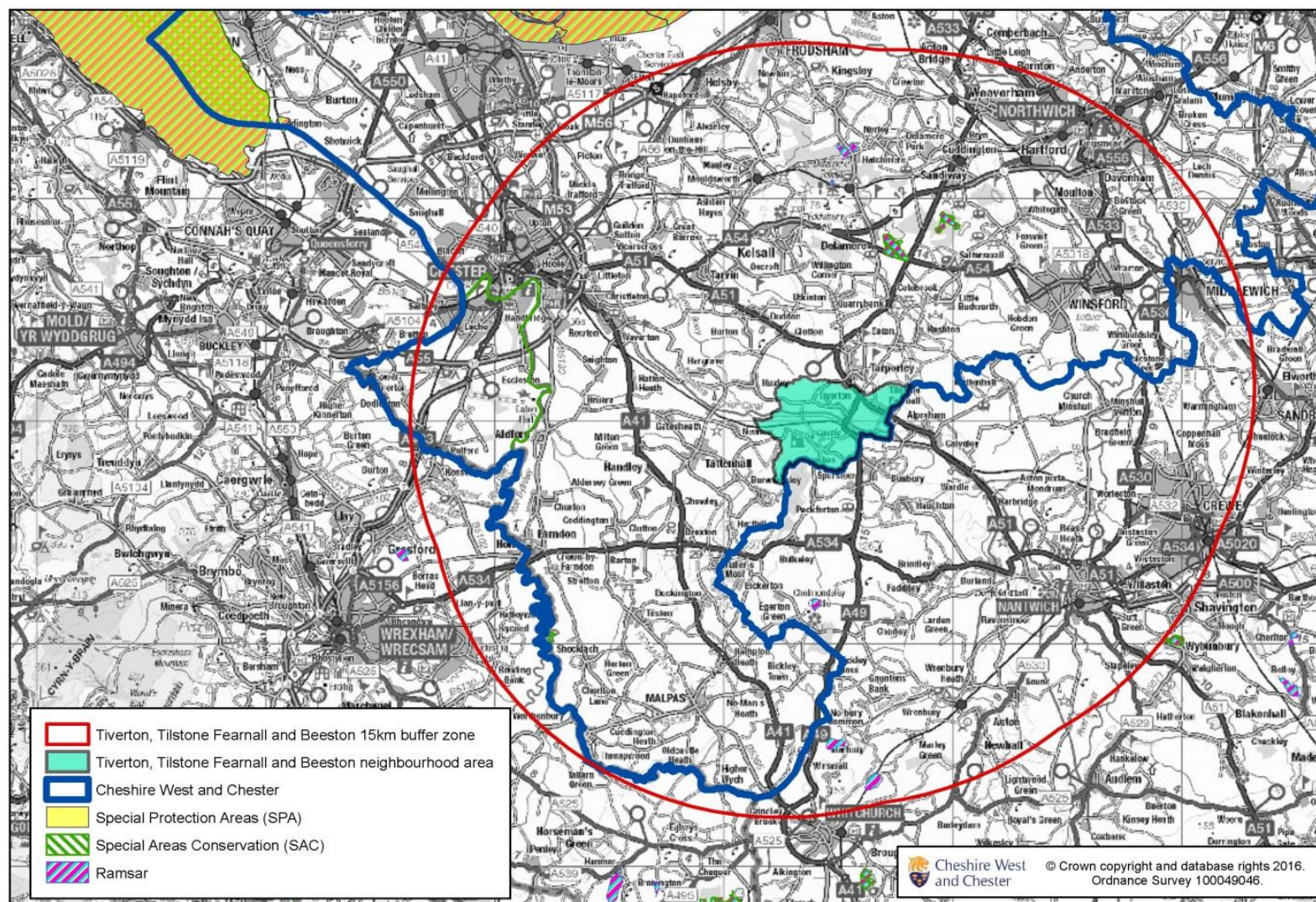
It is considered, therefore, that any proposals coming forward for Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan would not result in a likely significant effect on a European site than already identified and assessed through the Local Plan (Part One) Habitats Regulation Assessment Report.

## **Conclusion**

The Screening Determination made by Cheshire West and Chester Council is that the Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d), alone or in combination with other plans and projects. As such, a separate full screening exercise and Habitats Regulations Assessment are not considered to be required.



Map 2- European Designations within a 15km distance of the Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan



## Appendix 1

### Overview of Policies and Identified Effects of the Beeston, Tiverton & Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan.

Some of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan policies have been renumbered, re-drafted, incorporated within other policies or deleted since the earlier version which was subject to the initial SEA Screening and consultation in August 2016. There are however no changes to the identified effects arising from these working amendments.

Revised policies have been re-assessed and the identified potential effects and relationship to adopted Local Plan policies are shown in the table below. Policies in the earlier draft plan which have been deleted are shown as crossed out in the table below.

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
BE1: New Built Development	<p>New development will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be of an appropriate size,height,scale, mass, rural skyline, materials,layout, access and density reflecting the nature of the predominant development type in the area;</li> <li>respect the character of the local built environment, its history and surrounding natural landscape and seeks to reinforce this character through quality design.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of cultural heritage and landscape.</li> <li>Protection of local character.</li> </ul>	<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>ENV5 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the retention of the historic environment and other historic assets.</p>
BE2: Development Impacts	<p>New development must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>address the impact that it is likely to have on local facilities, either directly or through developer or other contributions.</li> <li>incorporate, where practicable, energy efficiency measures by the use of new and recycled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive effects on climatic factors through promotion of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation in new development.</li> <li>Benefits to population and human</li> </ul>	<p>STRAT1 supports sustainable development that mitigates and adapts to the effects of climate change, maximising use of opportunities for renewable energy use and generation.</p> <p>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high</p>

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
	<p>materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where feasible, make full use of power generated by renewable energy systems.</li> <li>• minimise water usage</li> </ul> <p>A Zero Carbon Footprint will be strongly encouraged.</p>	<p>health through addressing any potential adverse impacts of new development.</p>	<p>quality design and sustainable construction that respects local character and incorporates energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation.</p> <p>ENV7 supports renewable and low carbon energy proposals where no unacceptable impacts occur.</p>
BE3: Housing Development	<p>Future housing proposals must, where feasible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• limit development to an appropriate scale which complies with Strategy 9 of the CWAC Local Plan</li> <li>• Provide a suitable mix of housing types and sizes to reflect the housing needs identified by the survey results; This policy seeks to ensure that new developments meet the needs for the types of new housing as identified in the local housing needs survey, the CWAC Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2013) and any updates to these documents. CWAC's Housing Market data can be found at the following link: <a href="http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/housing/local_housing_market_reports.aspx">http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/housing/local_housing_market_reports.aspx</a></li> <li>• Provide affordable homes as part of any development of more than 5 houses on a single site; Changes to government policy have introduced a threshold (of 10 units or less) under which requirements for affordable housing should not be imposed. Designated rural areas can, however, choose to implement a lower threshold of 5 units or less. As the Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall NP Area lies within the rural</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive effects to population and human health through ensuring a mix and type of new housing to meet specific needs, including affordable housing.</li> <li>• Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape.</li> <li>• Positive effects to population and human health through supporting improvements to community assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Protection of mature/established trees will benefit fauna, flora and biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) SOC1 and SOC3 supports the provision of a range of housing to meet local need.</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>ENV3 and ENV4 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the retention of trees and hedgerows. ENV5 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the retention of the historic environment, and other historic assets.</p> <p>ENV21 of the Chester Local Plan sets out the expectation that trees, woodlands, and hedgerows should be integrated into developments. Further, ENV22 requires landscape works in new development.</p>

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
	<p>area designated under Section 157(1) of the Housing Act 1985, a lower threshold of 5 units can be applied. As such, affordable housing contributions are sought within all new residential developments of 5 or more units. In accordance with Policy SOC1 in the Local Plan, affordable housing will be sought on eligible sites up to a target of 30%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that developer contributions are utilised for the benefit of the local community, primarily to fund infrastructure improvements;</li> <li>• Respect the built environment with regards to design and historic character;</li> <li>• Retain as many mature/established trees as possible; and,</li> <li>• Provide sufficient external amenity space, refuse and recycling storage;</li> <li>• Provide adequate vehicle and bicycle parking and high quality streetscape.</li> </ul>		
ED1: New Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications for new development generating employment which meet the criteria of STRAT9 of the Local Plan will be encouraged. All new employment development should respect the character of its surroundings, by way of its massing, scale and design, and safeguard residential amenity. Such development must include adequate provision for vehicle and cycle parking.</li> <li>• Proposals for new development that combines living</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit to local population through enhanced economic opportunities.</li> <li>• Protecting cultural heritage and landscape.</li> </ul>	<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>ECON2 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of facilities and services.</p> <p>STRAT10 of Local Plan (Part One) expects new development to provide adequate levels of car and cycle parking.</p>

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
	and small-scale employment space will be encouraged, provided there is no adverse impact on the character and amenity of existing nearby residential areas.		
ED2: Character And Scale Of Employment Developments	Development for employment uses will be required to have a positive impact on the built environment and historic character of the locale by design in keeping with existing structures and the use of materials such as local sandstone and native wood from sustainable sources. It is likely that overground warehousing/storage uses would have a negative visual impact on their immediate surroundings and are unlikely to be acceptable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape.</li> </ul>	Local Plan (Part One) policy STRAT9 states that development in the countryside must be of an appropriate scale and design to not harm the character of the countryside. ENV2 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the principle of landscape character protection. ENV5 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports protection of heritage assets and their settings.
<i>Draft Policy ED2 Employment Density</i>	<i>Proposals for new businesses uses that have a low employment to floorspace ratio will be resisted.</i>	<i>Protection of employment opportunities</i>	<i>Local Plan (Part One) policy ECON1 promotes sustainable economic growth</i>  <i>Local Plan (Part One) policy STRAT9 states that development in the countryside must be of an appropriate scale and design to not harm the character of the countryside.</i>
ED3: Existing Businesses	Development that supports the retention of existing businesses will be encouraged. Similarly, proposals for change of use of existing business premises away from employment activity will be discouraged unless it can be demonstrated that reasonable attempts have been made to preserve employment or that the premises are not viable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of employment opportunities.</li> </ul>	ECON2 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of facilities and services.

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
ED4: Retail Premises	Proposals to consolidate, expand or add to local retail provision in the villages will be broadly supported provided that they can be demonstrated to meet the needs of the local population rather than be aimed at attracting a significant customer base from outside the area. Such proposals could reasonably include licenced premises or café-style uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits to population and human health.</li> <li>• Benefit to local population through enhanced economic opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>STRAT8 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of rural shops and community facilities</p> <p>ECON2 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of facilities and services.</p> <p>RET12 of the Chester Local Plan looks to protect rural shops, and sets out criteria for redevelopment.</p>
ED5: Broadband	Proposals that seek the expansion of electronic communication networks and high speed broadband, along with improvements to connectivity, will be supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic benefits of improving electronic communication networks and connectivity.</li> </ul>	<p>ECON1 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports delivery of high speed broadband infrastructure across the borough, particularly in the rural area.</p> <p>STRAT11 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the provision of appropriate new infrastructure including access to information and communication technologies.</p>
<del>Draft Policy ED8</del>  <del>DELETED FROM PLAN</del>	<del>Proposals that seek the expansion of electronic communication networks and high speed broadband, along with improvements to connectivity, will be supported where the applicant has fully explored the opportunities to erect apparatus on existing buildings or other structures.</del>	<del>Economic benefits of improving electronic communication networks and connectivity.</del>	<del>ECON1 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports delivery of high speed broadband infrastructure across the borough, particularly in the rural area.</del>  <del>STRAT11 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the provision of appropriate new infrastructure including access to information and communication technologies.</del>
ED6: Radio and Telecommunication Masts	The development of radio and telecommunication masts must be sited and designed to minimise the negative impacts on the character and appearance of the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of cultural heritage and landscape.</li> </ul>	ENV2 and ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the principle of landscape character protection and promotes high quality design that is sympathetic of heritage, environmental and landscape assets.



Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
T1: Beeston Railway Station	The re-opening of Beeston Railway Station, with adequate nearby parking provision and associated facilities, will be fully supported. The site of the former station and immediate environs is to be protected from development that could compromise the future provision of a new rail station and associated facilities. The extent of the area to be protected is shown at Figure 2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive effect on climatic factors through supporting sustainable modes of travel.</li> </ul>	Local Plan (Part One) policy STRAT10 supports maximising the use of sustainable modes of transport. STRAT11 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the provision of appropriate new infrastructure.
<del>Draft Policy T2</del>  <del>DELETED FROM PLAN</del>	<del>Proposals that may come forward for highways schemes to bypass all or any of the three villages will be broadly welcomed, dependent on the routes proposed and the resultant environmental impacts.</del>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>Positive effects on population and human health through supporting schemes that would minimise traffic and associated hazards and nuisance within the three villages.</del></li> <li><del>Potential harm to biodiversity, landscape, soil and climatic factors resulting from the creation of a bypass.</del></li> </ul>	<del>STRAT10 of Local Plan (Part One) supports safer transport.</del>
NE1: Beeston Castle	Public views of Beeston Castle and its setting within the local landscape should not be adversely affected by new development. The design, massing and orientation of development proposals should respect the character, appearance and importance of Beeston Castle and its setting within the local landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention of views.</li> <li>Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape</li> </ul>	Local Plan (Part One) Policy ENV2 supports protection of landscape character, making specific reference to protecting views.
NE2: Waterways	The River Gowy, Shopshire Union Canal, towpath and embankment are important features of the local environment. Development proposals that would adversely affect the recreational value, visual amenity and historic value of the canal or River Gowy setting or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive effects on water and associated water-based flora and fauna.</li> <li>Protection of cultural heritage assets</li> </ul>	ENV1 of the Local Plan (Part One) seeks to protect and enhance water quality and reduce flood risk.  Local Plan (Part One) Policy ENV4 seeks to safeguard and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
	damage their environments will be strongly resisted.		
NE3: Footpaths	All Public Footpaths and Bridleways and The Sandstone trail should be protected and maintained throughout the parishes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive effects on population and human health through the protection of local footpaths that support healthy lifestyles.</li> </ul>	SOC 5 of Local Plan (Part One) supports safe and accessible environments and opportunities to strengthen cultural and leisure offer.
NE4: Views	<p>New development should not adversely affect key views as identified in Appendix 4.</p> <p>New development should not adversely affect views of open countryside or local landmarks from public footpaths.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention of views.</li> <li>Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape</li> </ul>	Local Plan (Part One) Policy ENV2 supports protection of landscape character, making specific reference to protecting views.
NE5: Stiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stone and wooden stiles within the parishes should be preserved. New gates and/or access ways created should not disturb the existing stiles.</li> <li>Accessible stiles and gates should be built alongside traditional stiles, rather than replace them altogether.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of cultural heritage assets.</li> </ul>	<p>ENV2 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the principle of landscape character protection.</p> <p>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is sympathetic to heritage, environmental and landscape assets.</p>
NE6: Tree Planting	All new housing developments will be encouraged to plant at least one new tree, of a native species, for each new dwelling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance biodiversity through creation of habitats.</li> </ul>	<p>ENV3 and ENV4 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the retention of trees and hedgerows.</p> <p>ENV21 of the Chester Local Plan sets out the expectation that trees, woodlands, and hedgerows should be integrated into developments. Further, ENV22 requires landscape works in new development.</p>



Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
NE7: Hedgerows	<p>Development proposals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve existing hedgerows and their surrounding features, including sandstone walls; and,</li> <li>• Incorporate landscaping plans that, where possible, use traditional hedgerow plants such as Hawthorn and Beech.</li> <li>• Regard Townfield Lane as an important feature in the landscape and its hedgerows and wildlife should be protected from development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive effects on biodiversity through retention of hedgerows.</li> <li>• Protection of cultural heritage and landscape through retention of hedgerows and heritage features.</li> </ul>	<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. ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is sympathetic to heritage, environmental and landscape assets.</p> <p>ENV21 of the Chester Local Plan sets out the expectation that trees, woodlands, and hedgerows should be integrated into developments. Further, ENV22 requires landscape works in new development.</p>
NE8: Ponds	<p>Proposals for new development, including extensions of existing buildings, must be designed so as to not adversely affect ponds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive effects on water and associated water-based flora and fauna.</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Policy ENV4 seeks to safeguard and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.</p> <p>HO4 and HO5 of the Chester Local Plan contain criteria regarding the design of new development that includes landscape considerations.</p>
NE9: Dark Skies	<p>Dark skies are to be preferred over street lights except where there are overriding highway safety considerations. Future lighting schemes should be designed to be in keeping with the local character. In all cases, outdoor lighting sources should have a minimum impact on the environment, should minimise light pollution, and should minimise adverse effects on wildlife. As and when existing lighting systems are maintained and replaced they should be updated to meet low environmental impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of local character.</li> <li>• Positive effects on fauna and flora through minimising adverse impacts of light pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>SOC5 of the Local Plan (Part One) promotes health and well-being. Development that gives rise to significant adverse impacts on health (including light pollution) will not be allowed.</p> <p>ENV2 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the principle of landscape character protection.</p> <p>HO4 and HO5 of the Chester Local Plan contain criteria regarding the design of new development</p>

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
	standards.		which includes landscape considerations.  ENV14 of the Chester Local Plan supports external lighting schemes that enhance the image of villages at night and reduce light pollution.
CP1: Community Assets	Tiverton War Memorial and Tiverton Village Green and their settings should be protected from the adverse effects of any development.  Development or improvement of facilities for public use will be encouraged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<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>
<del>CP1: Community Assets</del>  <del>DELETED FROM PLAN</del>	<del>The sites, locations, features and environs of Tiverton War Memorial and Tiverton Village Green should be afforded significant value and will be protected from the adverse impacts of development.</del>	<del>Protection of cultural heritage.</del>	<p><del>ENV5 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of the historic environment and historic assets.</del></p> <p><del>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is sympathetic to heritage, environmental and landscape assets.</del></p>
CP2: Community Activities	Proposals that seek to sustain and safeguard long standing and established community activities will be encouraged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>Benefits to population and human health.</li> </ul>	<p>STRAT8 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of rural community facilities</p> <p>SOC5 of Local Plan (Part One) supports opportunities to strengthen cultural, sport, recreational and leisure offer.</p>

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics)	Relationship to adopted Local Plan
<p><i>GP2: Community Places</i></p> <p>DELETED FROM PLAN</p>	<p><i>Proposals that seek to sustain and safeguard long standing and established community places will be encouraged.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure.</i></li> <li><i>Benefits to population and human health.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>STRAT8 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of rural community facilities</i></p> <p><i>SOC5 of Local Plan (Part One) supports opportunities to strengthen cultural, sport, recreational and leisure offer.</i></p>

**Appendix 2: Comments received during consultation on draft Screening Assessment – August 2016**

Agency	Date Consulted	Response
<b>Environment Agency</b>	03 August 2016	No comments to make to the screening statement.
<b>Historic England</b>	03 August 2016	We note that the Plan appears to propose no site allocations or policies which would have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment and as such we concur that in this regards Strategic Environmental Assessment is <b>not</b> required.
<b>Natural England</b>	03 August 2016	The screening document dated July 2016 concludes that the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) does not require a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) or Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and Natural England agrees with these conclusions.