

Environmental Assessment Statement

Title: 18-011 Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Environmental Assessment Statement

Date: August 2018

Purpose: To set out how the Plan meets the requirement of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Context

- 1.1. This statement is designed to set out how the Moulton Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The regulations require any plan or policy to determine whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects, and as necessary mitigate for or avoid, these effects.
- 1.2. Regulation 9(1) requires the responsible authority - in this case the Parish Council who have taken on the role of the Neighbourhood Forum, as described under regulation 8 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 - to determine whether or not the plan or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.3. On behalf of the Parish Council, the consultants (Urban Imprint) prepared and consulted upon a screening and scoping opinion in regard of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.4. Regulation 6 of the Environmental Assessments Regulations (2014), states that an environmental assessment needs to be carried out for a plan or programme if it is determined under regulation 9(1) that the plan or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.5. Moulton has not been allocated any new homes in the parish over the plan period as stated in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Strategy (2010-2030). Housing policies within the Neighbourhood Plan specifically refer to the Key Settlement Gap (H1), Location of New Residential Development (H2), Infill (H3), Housing Mix (H4), and the Development of Regent Street (H5).

Screening and Scoping

- 1.6. A screening report was issued December 2017 by the Local Planning Authority who concluded that the neighbourhood plan would not require an SEA.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.7. Work on the sustainability appraisal (SA) began in 2017 and ran through the various elements of the Plan during 2017 and 2018 with the final elements and write up conducted in 2018, prior to final approval of the Plan by the parish council. A copy of the full SA is contained within the submission package alongside the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.8. Each of the policies in the plan were assessed against a series of sustainability objectives. These sustainability objectives had been developed from those used in the Cheshire West and Chester's Sustainability Appraisal (2015) which specifies 12 sustainability objectives, covering key sustainability themes.
- 1.9. Suggested possible changes were then identified and where possible these have been incorporated into the final plan.

Conclusions

- 1.10. In reaching this determination, the following key issues have been considered:
- a. An SEA screening opinion based on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (prepared in accordance with regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General Regulations 2012) confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan would not have significant environmental effects
 - b. All policies of the Neighbourhood Plan have been tested against sustainability objectives as part of the Sustainability Appraisal submitted with this Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.11. This statement is considered to satisfy the requirements of Regulation 9(3) and states the reasons for this determination.