

**Strategic Environmental Assessment,**  
**Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats**  
**Regulations Assessment Screening**  
**Determination**  
  
**Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan**

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

**September 2018**

**Based on the Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan**  
**(September 2018)**

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

Appendix 2: Comments received during consultation on the draft Screening Report – December 2017

## **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 Northwich 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 December 2017 based upon the policies set out in the draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan (v5 November 2017).

The Council has a duty to consult four specified environmental organisations – Natural England, English Heritage, Historic England and the Environment Agency. The statutory environmental bodies were consulted on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017. 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, who agreed with the outcome of the initial screening exercise, that SEA is not required or confirming that they had no further comments to make in this regard. This final screening determination addresses comments made during the consultation.

Since November 2017, the draft Neighbourhood Plan 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.

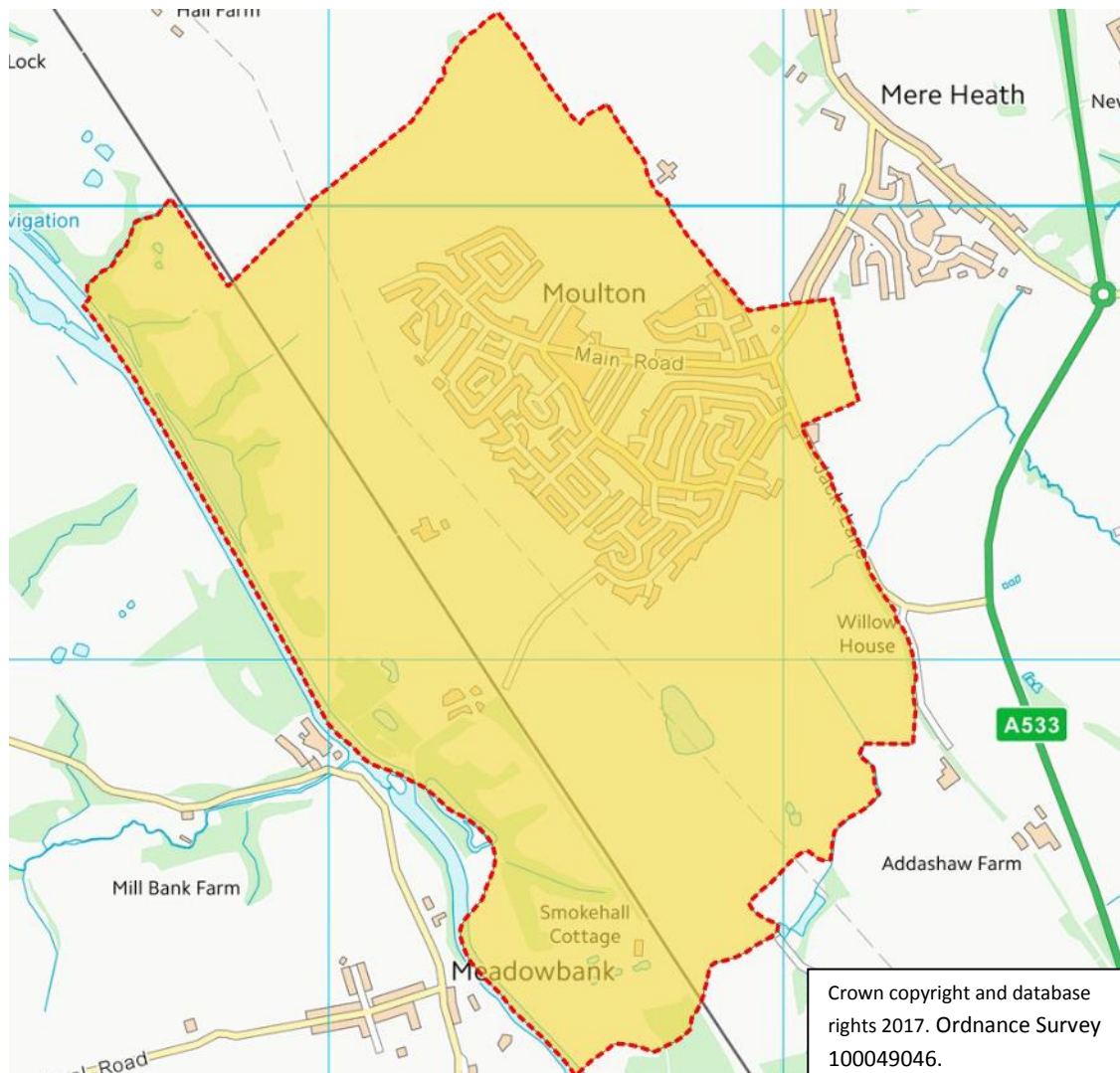
It is not considered that any of the amendments to the policies of the draft Neighbourhood Plan change the assessment and conclusions made at the time of the initial screening opinion in December 2017. All amendments are shown in Table 2 and Appendix 1 of this report.

## 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. The Plan has recently been through an Examination In Public (September 2018).

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 and Open Space
- 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 (the SEA Directive) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment 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 Moulton Neighbourhood Plan fall 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. If SEA is required, the assessment is usually incorporated into a Sustainability Appraisal, which includes environmental factors as required under the SEA Directive, along with social and economic factors.

### **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 2 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.

A key part of the Neighbourhood Plan screening has been to consider the context of its preparation and its interaction with the 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 at Appendix 1 to this report.

Table 1 sets out the exact nature of the neighbourhood plan policies and how they interact with the Local Plan and sets out the findings of the screening.

In summary the characteristics of the plan policies mean that:

- Any effects of them are likely to be small scale, local at the neighbourhood level.
- They do not allocate sites for housing or employment development and 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.

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- 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.

## **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 Moulton Neighbourhood Plan. A Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan is therefore not required.

However, it is acknowledged that the strategic planning policies for the Moulton area as set out in the Local Plan (Part One) for Cheshire West and Chester may have the potential for significant environmental effects. However, these policies have been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment as set out in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan (Part One) and no further assessment is required.

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

<b>1. 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 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
<b>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those</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	No

<b>in a hierarchy</b>	the policies in plans at the higher strategic level or lead to the development of further plans below it.	
<b>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</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 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.	No
<b>Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme</b>	<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"> <li>- Minimising the impact on identified heritage assets, seeking to protect and, where appropriate, enhance them.</li> <li>- Maintaining and enhancing the existing hedgerows, trees and waterbodies</li> <li>- Incorporating effective design and landscaping to support biodiversity</li> <li>- Protecting the character, significance and community value of identified Local Green Space and the countryside beyond the settlement boundary.</li> <li>- Incorporating new green infrastructure into developments to mitigate against the impacts of climate change and ensuring new development does not impact on wildlife corridors.</li> </ul>	No

	- Promoting accessibility by modes alternative to the car.	
<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 on these matters. 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?
<b>Potential benefits to population and human health</b>	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	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level	None	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.

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		benefits that one development in isolation may not.								
<b>Benefits to population and human health through supporting improvements to community assets and infrastructure.</b>	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
<b>Benefits to population and human health of new housing and economic development, including local</b>	Probability and frequency depends on the nature, scale and details of proposed development	Each new development has the potential to benefit the local population. There would be greater potential to	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

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<b>affordable housing and housing to meet local needs.</b>	coming forwards. The plan allows for some limited housing 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	maximise these benefits if several developments could have a synergistic cumulative effect.								



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<b>Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure.</b>	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.	New development has potential to strengthen and enhance community assets and improve infrastructure. 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 local community assets.	No
<b>Benefits to population and human health through addressing impacts of new development on local</b>	Probability is likely to depend on the nature, scale, and details of development proposals. Impacts would	None as the effect should be to reduce and manage potentially negative cumulative impacts	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 <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?
<b>facilities and community infrastructure</b>	be long term and reversible.	resulting from new development.								
<b>Protection and enhancement of footpaths and provision of green infrastructure for the local population</b>	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 be long term and irreversible.	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 e.g. joining individual areas of green infrastructure	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

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<b>Potential effects (loss or harm) to cultural heritage assets and the village character and design</b>	Low, infrequent probability. Neighbourhood Plan objectives aim to protect and enhance the built environment and character of Moulton. Policies aim to ensure designs are sensitive to the character and buildings with high quality design. Effects would be short, medium and long term.	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
<b>Enhancement and protection</b>	High probability of achievement in all new	Each new development has the potential to	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood	None	None	None	None identified	No

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<b>of biodiversity</b>	developments, depending on their nature, scale, and details. Impacts would be long term.	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 development does not detrimentally impact on the quality and quantity of wildlife.			level.					
<b>Potential effects on landscape (loss or harm) and protection and</b>	Low, infrequent probability. Neighbourhood Plan objectives aim to ensure	Potential negative impact of development, however criteria have been	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

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<b>enhancement of the landscape</b>	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 villages. . Effects would be short, medium and long term.	included to ensure this is limited and the Plan identifies Local Green Space.								
<b>Management and mitigation of traffic impacts</b>	Probability difficult to assess as depends on	None as the effect should be to reduce and manage	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified.	No

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	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. .	cumulative traffic impact as a result if new development.								
<b>Retention and protection of views</b>	Low probability as unlikely to be large scale development in the village. The Plan protects countryside	There is a potential small positive cumulative effect. However, development contrary to these	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

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	outside the settlement boundary through policy criteria, designating Local Green Space and identifying Key Views. Impacts would be permanent and long term.	policies could have a large negative cumulative effect.								
<b>Positive impacts of design on human health</b>	Probably difficult to assess as depends on the scale and nature of the development. Impacts would be long term and irreversible. The plan	There is a potential small positive cumulative effect. However, development contrary to these policies could have a negative cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

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	includes policy to guide high quality design in new developments.									
<b>Improvement to human health through increased walking and cycling</b>	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 be long term and irreversible. Policies 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 synergistic cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact, at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No



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	included in the plan to encourage access to the countryside and access to development sites by walking and cycling and the protection of footpaths.									
<b>Potential impact on climate through carbon reduction by promoting the use of public transport</b>	Probability is difficult to assess as dependent on the nature, scale, and details of proposed development, however proposals are likely to be	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 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 <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 and irreversible. Policies are included in the plan to promote cycling and walking,	cumulative effect.								
<b>Positive effect on climatic factors through promotion of energy efficiency measures in new development</b>	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	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 <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?
	development in the neighbourhood plan area.  Effects would be long term.									

### **3.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening and Determination**

#### **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.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan policies have been renumbered and re-drafted or between the November 2017 version which was subject to the initial SEA Screening consultation in December. The detailed changes are set out at Appendix 1 of this report.

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

<b>Table 3: Screening of policies for altering Local Plan Policy</b>	
<b>Draft Moulton Neighbourhood Plan Policy</b>	<b>Change in policy position in Local Plan and policies to be retained?</b>
<b>Draft Policy GP1</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy GP2</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy H1</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy H2</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy H3</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy H4</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy H5</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy DH1</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy DH2</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy DH3</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy EOS1</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy EOS2</b>	No

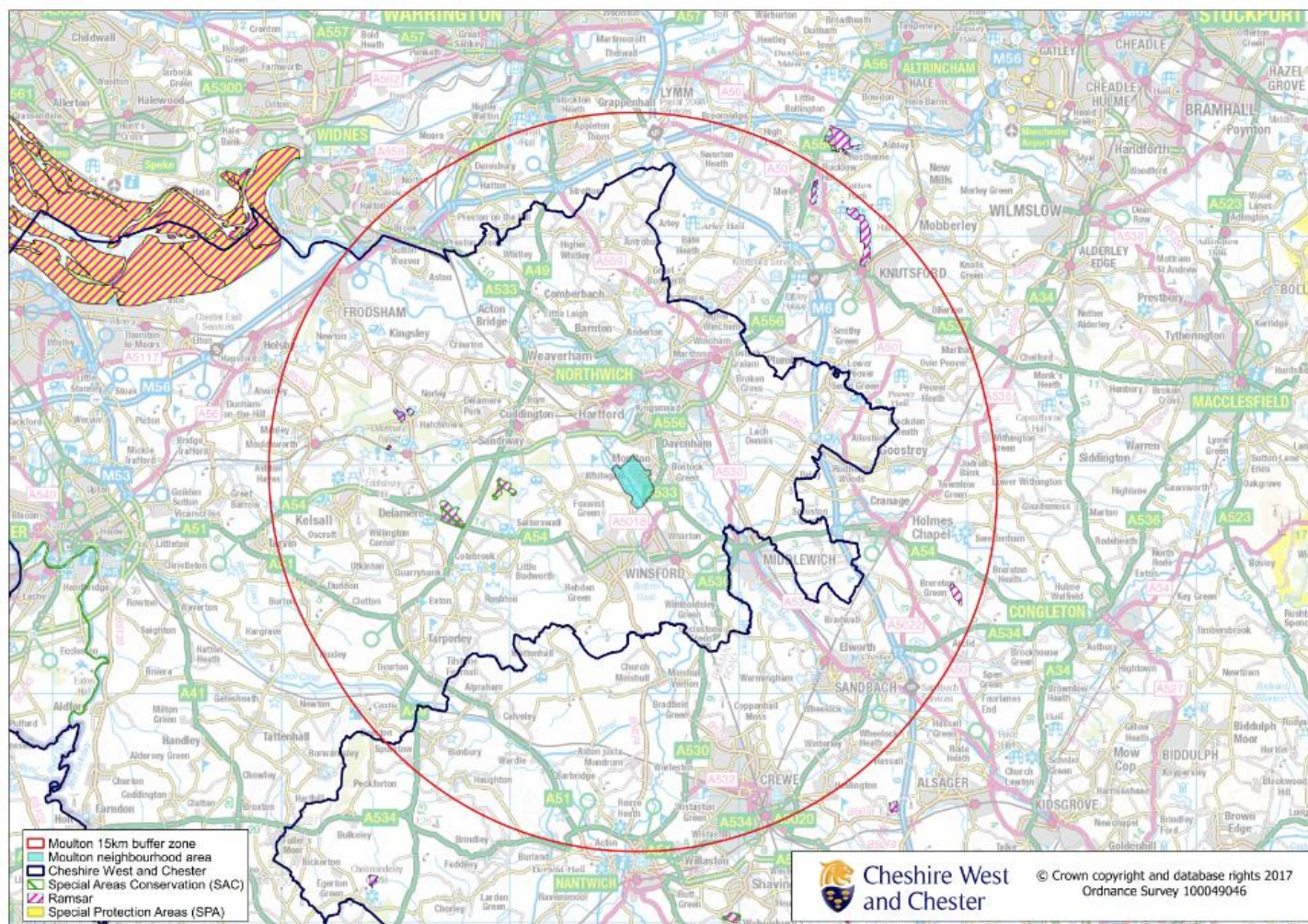
<b>Draft Policy EOS3</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy EOS4</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy T1</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy T2</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy T3</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy CFT1</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy CFT2</b>	No
<b>Draft Policy CFT3</b>	No

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.

## **Conclusion**

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

*Some of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan policies have been renumbered or re-drafted since the version which was subject to the initial SEA Screening and consultation in December 2017. There are however no changes to the identified effects arising from these working amendments.*

*Any amended policies are shown in italics underneath the original draft policies which were subject to the SEA Screening in December 2017. The revised policies have been re-assessed and the identified potential effects and relationship to Local Plan policies are shown in italics in the table below:*

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.
<b>Draft Policy GP1</b> <b>Settlement First</b>	<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"> <li>• Protection of cultural heritage and landscape.</li> <li>• Protection of local character.</li> <li>• Positive effects to population and human health through supporting improvements to community assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Support for and retention of local services</li> </ul>	<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</p>

			<p>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> <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><b>Draft Policy GP1</b></p> <p><b>Settlement First</b></p>	<p><i>Residential, commercial or community developments within Moulton Parish are to be focused within the settlement boundary (as shown on the proposals map). Proposals for residential, commercial or community developments outside the settlement boundary will be resisted. Schemes which require a countryside location, will be acceptable where they meet the criteria set out in policy STRAT 9 of the Local Plan.</i></p> <p><i>The village is to be promoted as a community hub and any development should contribute to reinforcing that role. Developments which contribute to improvements to the parish services,</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Protection of cultural heritage and landscape.</i></li> <li>• <i>Protection of local character.</i></li> <li>• <i>Positive effects to population and human health through supporting improvements to community assets and infrastructure.</i></li> <li>• <i>Support for and retention of local services</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p> <p><i>ENV2 and ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the principle of landscape</i></p>

	<p><i>infrastructure and community facilities to reinforce the role of the hub will be supported subject to compliance with other Neighbourhood Plan policies.</i></p>		<p><i>character protection and high quality design that respects local character.</i></p> <p><i>Policy GS5 of the Vale Royal Local Plan seeks to protect the character and appearance of the open countryside.</i></p> <p><i>BE1 of the Vale Royal Local Plan sets out general criteria for new development, including location and accessibility.</i></p> <p><i>STRAT11 – supports the timely provision of additional facilities, services and infrastructure to meet identified needs, whether arising from new developments or existing community need.</i></p>
<p><b>Draft Policy GP2</b></p> <p><b>Sustainable Development</b></p>	<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"> <li>- Used appropriate building materials that aid in achieving a zero-carbon building</li> <li>- Promoted an appropriate layout, orientation and massing of development to maximise solar gain;</li> <li>- Explored the use of, and where</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 health (reduction in CO2 emissions (non-local)).</li> </ul>	<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>

	<p>possible included, on site renewable energy generation technology</p> <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>		
<p><b>Draft Policy GP2</b></p> <p><b>Sustainable Development</b></p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to achieve this by encouraging applicants to demonstrate that they have:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Used appropriate building materials that aid in achieving a zero-carbon building in accordance with sustainable construction techniques set out in policy ENV6 of the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (part one).</i></li> <li>- <i>Promoted the use of, and where possible include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to reduce surface water run-off, manage water at or near the surface, maximise infiltration into the ground and deliver ecological benefits in line with policy ENV1 of the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (part one);</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Positive effects on climatic factors through promotion of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation in new development.</i></li> <li>• <i>Benefits to population and human health (reduction in CO2 emissions (non-local)).</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>ENV1 of the Local Plan (Part One) seeks to reduce flood risk, promote water efficiency measures, and protect and enhance water quality through mechanisms including the use of SuDS.</i></p> <p><i>BE1 – VRBC Retained Policy Safeguarding and Improving the Quality of the Environment</i></p> <p><i>BE21 – VRBC Retained Policy Renewable Energy</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoted an appropriate layout orientation and massing of development to maximise solar gain;</li> <li>- Explored the use of, and where possible included, on site renewable energy generation technology</li> </ul> <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>		
<p><b>Draft Policy H1</b></p> <p><b>Key Settlement Gap</b></p>	<p>Developments should avoid the village from merging with nearby settlement of Davenham in accordance with Local Plan (part two) policy GBC3. Residential applications which erode the gap between the village and nearby settlements will be resisted to retain the village's individual identity and character.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and enhancement of existing cultural heritage and landscape.</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of existing cultural heritage and landscape.</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of the landscape.</li> <li>• Retention and protection of views.</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) ENV2 – Landscape GS5 – VRBC Retained Policy</p> <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) 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</p>

			<i>appearance of the open countryside.</i>
<p><b>Draft Policy H1</b></p> <p><b>Location of new residential development</b></p>	<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 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 identity.</p>	<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.</li> <li>• Protection of cultural heritage and landscape.</li> </ul>	<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 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>
<p><b>Draft Policy H2</b></p> <p><b>Location of new</b></p>	<p><i>New residential developments in the parish will be supported where they lie within the village settlement boundary</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Positive effects to population and human health through ensuring a mix and type of</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Local Plan (Part One) SOC1 and SOC3 supports the provision of a range of</i></p>

<b>residential development</b>	<p><i>subject to criteria in H3 (infill) and H4 (housing mix). Proposals should be small in scale and must demonstrate how they meet the local needs within the parish.</i></p> <p><i>Where necessary to meet local affordable housing needs, development schemes proposing 100% affordable housing may be permitted on small sites adjacent to the settlement boundary.</i></p> <p><i>In all cases, schemes proposing housing must accord with policy H4 of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan or demonstrate how it meets an identified housing need through an up-to-date Housing Needs Survey.</i></p>	<p><i>new housing to meet specific needs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Protection of cultural heritage and landscape.</i></li> <li><i>Potential effects on population and human health through the provision of affordable housing.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>housing to meet local need including through rural exception sites adjacent to Local Service Centres.</i></p> <p><i>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)).</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>ENV2 and ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) support the principle of landscape character protection and high quality design that respects local character.</i></p> <p><i>Policy GS5 of the Vale Royal Local Plan seeks to protect the character and appearance of the open countryside.</i></p> <p><i>BE1 of the Vale Royal Local Plan sets out general criteria for new development, including location and accessibility.</i></p>
<b>Draft Policy H2 Infill</b>	<p>New development schemes on infill plots within the Village will be supported, subject to not conflicting with other development plan policies. Applications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of cultural heritage and landscape - retention of countryside</li> <li>Protection of local character and</li> </ul>	<p>STRAT8 – New development, including infill will be accommodated at local service centres (Moulton is proposed as a local service centre in the Publication</p>

	<p>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 development (including conversions) must;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be within the village settlement boundary, as identified on the proposals map;</li> <li>- Be of appropriate scale and plot size to the existing plots and dwellings neighbouring the site;</li> <li>- Be on a site bounded by existing properties on two or more sides fronting an existing highway;</li> </ul> <p>To avoid dramatically increasing density within the village, adequate garden space should be provided in new developments and retained in adjoining properties.</p>	amenity,	<p>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>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><b>Draft Policy H3</b></p> <p><b>Infill</b></p>	<p><i>New development schemes on infill plots within the village will be supported, subject to compliance with other Development Plan policies. Applications for infill sites that protect nearby residential amenity will be supported.</i></p> <p><i>In order to avoid inappropriate infill</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Protection of cultural heritage and landscape - retention of countryside</i></li> <li>• <i>Protection of local character and amenity,</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>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)).</i></p> <p><i>STRAT9 – protects the character and beauty of the countryside and restricts</i></p>



	<p><i>developments, all applications for infill development (including conversions) must;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Be of appropriate scale and plot size commensurate with adjacent properties;</i></li> <li>- <i>Be on a site bounded by existing properties on two or more sides fronting an existing highway;</i></li> </ul> <p><i>To avoid dramatically increasing density within the village, adequate garden space should be provided in new developments and retained in adjoining properties. Proposals should follow guidance set out in the Cheshire West and Chester's supplementary planning guidance document Outdoor Space Standards for New Dwellings, or subsequent replacement guidance.</i></p>		<p><i>development in the countryside to only that which requires a countryside location. directing development to local services centres.</i></p> <p><i>ENV6 – promotes sustainable, high quality design and construction which respects local character through appropriate layout and design.</i></p> <p><i>GS5 of the Vale Royal Local Plan sets out the protection of the character and appearance of the open countryside.</i></p>
<p><b>Draft Policy H3 (H4)</b></p> <p><b>Housing Mix</b></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"> <li>- Smaller properties especially for the elderly, including bungalows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of appropriate type and mix of new residential development</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) SOC1 and SOC3 supports the provision of a range of housing to meet local need.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Properties suitable for first time buyers</li> <li>- Family homes</li> </ul> <p>Residential schemes that propose less than 10 dwellings are expected to provide a mix of housing types where appropriate.</p> <p>Additionally, applications must include a provision of affordable housing where appropriate and conform to the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan.</p>		
<b>Draft Policy H4 (H5)</b>  <b>Development of Regent Street</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Development proposals should meet the design criteria set out in policy DH1, and the Housing policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of appropriate type and mix of new residential development</li> </ul>	<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>
<b>Draft Policy DH1</b>  <b>General Design</b>	<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"> <li>- Be of appropriate scale, mass and density and provide an adequate plot size, in-keeping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retention of local character</li> <li>• Positive impact on human health through provision of adequate living space</li> <li>• Provision of appropriate type and mix of new residential development</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><i>ENV5 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of the historic environment and historic assets.</i></p> <p><i>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is</i></p>

	<p>with the Cheshire character: red brick, grey roofing tile, and gable features;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide a mixture of housing types</li> <li>- Have active frontages, addressing the street</li> <li>- Avoid flat roofs where possible</li> <li>- Have adequate off-street parking in accordance with policy T1 of the development plan</li> <li>- <i>Be in keeping with the historic character of the village in line with criteria set out in policy DH2 of the Neighbourhood Plan.</i></li> </ul>		<i>sympathetic to heritage, environmental and landscape assets.</i>
<b>Draft Policy DH2 Heritage Assets</b>	<p>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.</p>	<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>
<b>Draft Policy DH2 Heritage Assets</b>	<p><i>Moulton benefits from historic buildings, spaces, street patterns (derived from historic field boundaries and architectural detailing which together contributes to the village's local character to be in conformity with the Neighbourhood Plan. 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.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>ENV5 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the retention of the historic environment and historic assets.</i></p> <p><i>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is sympathetic to heritage, environmental and landscape assets.</i></p>

	<i>Development schemes that demonstrate how they have consulted with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record in order to safeguard these heritage assets will be looked at favourably. These designated and non-designated assets, identified by the community are set out in appendix 1.</i>		
<b>Draft Policy DH3</b> <b>Streets and Footpaths</b>	<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.</p> <p>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"> <li>• Positive effects on population and human health through the protection of local footpaths that support healthy lifestyles.</li> <li>• Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape</li> </ul>	<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>
<b>Draft Policy DH3</b> <b>Streets and</b>	<i>New development schemes that enhance or provide contributions to improving the quality of the public realm beyond the application site will be looked upon</i>	<i>• Positive effects on population and human health through the protection of local footpaths that support healthy lifestyles.</i>	<i>SOC 5 of Local Plan (Part One) supports safe and accessible environments and opportunities to strengthen cultural and</i>

<b>Footpaths</b>	<p><i>favourably, subject to other policies within the development plan.</i></p> <p><i>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. Proposals which improve the features mentioned above, and also enhancing existing linkages from new developments into existing footpaths and rights of way will be looked upon favourably.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>leisure offer.</i></p> <p><i>SOC6 – Open space sport and recreation seeks to improve the quality and quantity of open space including public rights of way.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is sympathetic to heritage, environmental and landscape assets.</i></p>
<b>Draft Policy EOT1</b>  <b>Natural Environment and Biodiversity</b>	<p>New development proposals should consider their impacts on the biodiversity of the Parish.</p> <p>Planning applications should, where 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"> <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> <li>• Protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</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.</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</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance existing sites where appropriate and not harm or negatively impact habitats and wildlife corridors, and where appropriate, create new wildlife corridors</li> <li>- Conform to the Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain designated national character area profile.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>- Within the Village;</li> <li>- Around the Vicarage;</li> <li>- Main Rd (rear of Regent St);</li> <li>- Along riverside walk;</li> </ul>		<p>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>
<p><b>Draft Policy EOS1</b></p> <p><b>Natural Environment and Biodiversity</b></p>	<p><i>New development proposals should consider their impacts on the biodiversity of the Parish.</i></p> <p><i>Planning applications should, where possible seek to maintain and enhance existing hedgerows, trees and waterbodies within the Parish, as outlined in the Village Design Guide.</i></p> <p><i>New developments should demonstrate how they have incorporated effective design and landscaping to support biodiversity by:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Positive effects on biodiversity through retention of hedgerows.</i></li> <li>• <i>Protection of cultural heritage and landscape through retention of hedgerows and heritage features.</i></li> <li>• <i>Protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>ENV4 Biodiversity – development should not result in any net loss of natural assets.</i></p> <p><i>ENV6 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports high quality design which is sympathetic to heritage, environmental</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance existing sites where appropriate and not harm or negatively impact habitats and wildlife corridors, and where appropriate, create new wildlife corridors</li> <li>- Conform to the Borough Council's Landscape Strategy document.</li> </ul> <p><i>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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Within the village centre, around the park and war memorial;</li> <li>- Around the Vicarage;</li> <li>- Main Rd (rear of Regent St);</li> <li>- Along riverside walk;</li> </ul>		<p><i>and landscape assets.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<b>Draft Policy EOT2</b>  <b>Local Green Space</b>	<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 these green spaces and should be consistent with Green Belt policies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Playing fields adjacent to the War memorial off Main Rd;</li> <li>- Area around the War memorial;</li> <li>- Area adjacent to Village Hall;</li> <li>- School sports field;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and enhancement of existing cultural heritage and landscape.</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of the landscape.</li> <li>• Retention and protection of views.</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</li> <li>• Improvement to human health through increased walking and cycling.</li> </ul>	<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) 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</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recreational field;</li> <li>- Natural wetland site;</li> <li>- Weaver Rd play area;</li> <li>- Moulton children's playing field.</li> </ul>		<p>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><b>Draft Policy EOS2</b></p> <p><b>Local Green Space</b></p>	<p><i>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 these green spaces. Managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belt in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Playing fields adjacent to the War memorial off Main Rd;</li> <li>- Area around the War memorial;</li> <li>- Area adjacent to Village Hall;</li> <li>- School sports field;</li> <li>- Recreational field;</li> <li>- Natural wetland site;</li> <li>- Weaver Rd play area;</li> <li>- Moulton children's playing field.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and enhancement of existing cultural heritage and landscape.</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of the landscape.</li> <li>• Retention and protection of views.</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</li> <li>• Improvement to human health through increased walking and cycling.</li> </ul>	<p><i>STRAT9 – protects the character and beauty of the countryside</i></p> <p><i>Policy ENV2 Landscape – support the designation of Local Green Space</i></p> <p><i>Policy ENV3 of the Local Plan (Part One) supports the creation, enhancement, protection and management of a network of high quality multi-functional Green Infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>Policy ENV4 of the Local Plan (Part One) identifies the importance of safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity.</i></p> <p><i>Policy GS5 of the Vale Royal Local Plan seeks to protect the character and appearance of the open countryside.</i></p>
<p><b>Draft Policy EOT3 (EOS3)</b></p> <p><b>Green Infrastructure</b></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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and enhancement of existing cultural heritage and landscape.</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<p>ENV3 – Green Infrastructure – supports increased planting of trees and woodland, particularly in urban areas and the urban fringe.</p>



	<p>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>		
<p><b>Draft Policy EOT4</b></p> <p><b>Key views</b></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"> <li>- Reinforced, where relevant, the existing patterns of the streets, spaces and building lines and maintained views of key landmarks;</li> <li>- Retained and framed, where relevant, views of the wider countryside, landscape features and distant landforms;</li> <li>- Reflect the local character of these views through sympathetic design and materials, the use of appropriate vegetation types</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retention of views.</li> <li>• Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Policy ENV2 supports protection of landscape character, making specific reference to protecting views.</p>
<p><b>Draft Policy EOS4</b></p> <p><b>Key views</b></p>	<p><i>New development must not have negative impacts on the Key Views in the Parish (as identified on the Proposals Map).</i></p> <p><i>Proposals must show evidence of being sympathetic to the following key views which have been identified by the</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Retention of views.</i></li> <li>• <i>Protection of cultural heritage, local character and landscape</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Local Plan (Part One) Policy ENV2 supports protection of landscape character, making specific reference to protecting views.</i></p>

	<p><i>community in the Village Design Guide:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>East end of Main Rd looking east over farmland and Jack Lane farm towards the Pennines and Jodrell Bank;</i></li> <li>• <i>The westerly end of Main Rd looking over farmland towards Eaton Hall farm and the path down to the Weaver;</i></li> <li>• <i>From Hillside Lane looking southwest over Moultonbank Farm towards the Weaver Navigation and Vale Royal Abbey.</i></li> <li>• <i>From the Playing Field looking over Bovis towards Dairy Farm on Beehive Lane and Davenham.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Planning applications will be required to demonstrate how they have:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Reinforced, where relevant, the existing patterns of the streets, spaces and building lines and maintained views of key landmark as seen on the proposals map;</i></li> <li>- <i>Retained and framed, where relevant, views of the wider countryside, landscape features and distant landforms;</i></li> <li>- <i>Reflect the local character of these views through sympathetic design and materials, the use of appropriate vegetation types</i></li> </ul>		
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<p><b>Draft Policy T1</b></p> <p><b>Sustainable Transport</b></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"> <li>• Positive effect on climatic factors through supporting sustainable modes of travel.</li> <li>• Positive effects on population and human health through supporting schemes that would minimise traffic and promoting cycling and walking.</li> </ul>	<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><b>Draft Policy T2</b></p> <p><b>Parking</b></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"> <li>- 1 Bed Dwellings: 1 space</li> <li>- 2/3 Bed Dwellings: 2 spaces</li> <li>- 4+ Bed Dwellings: 3 spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impact on climate through carbon reduction by promoting the use of public transport.</li> <li>• Management and mitigation of traffic impacts</li> </ul>	<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><b>Draft Policy T3</b></p> <p><b>Traffic Management</b></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"> <li>- Safe access and egress to the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive effects on population and human health through improving safety</li> <li>• Potential impact on climate through carbon reduction by promoting the use of public transport.</li> <li>• Management and mitigation of traffic impacts</li> </ul>	<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</p>

	<p>site;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parking and servicing arrangement;</li> <li>- 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 <i>are unlikely to be acceptable</i>.</li> </ul>		arrangements and safe pedestrian access.
<p><b>Draft Policy CFT1</b></p> <p><b>Community Buildings</b></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"> <li>- St Stephens Church village hall</li> <li>- Moulton adventure group buildings (off School Ln)</li> </ul> <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"> <li>- St Stephens the Martyr Church;</li> <li>- Verdin Club,</li> <li>- Church Hall</li> </ul> <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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure</li> <li>• Impact on health and well-being through provision of community facilities</li> <li>• Provision of improved health services</li> </ul>	<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>

	proposals should be designed for a variety of uses to promote robust, sustainable development.		
<b>Draft Policy CFT1</b>  <b>Community Buildings</b>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- St Stephens Church village hall</li> <li>- Moulton adventure group buildings (off School Ln)</li> <li>- St Stephens the Martyr Church;</li> <li>- Verdin Club,</li> <li>- Church Hall</li> </ul> <p><i>Development involving the loss of existing community facilities, cultural or local services will only be supported where they meet the criteria stated in Local Plan (part two) policy DM39.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure</li> <li>• Impact on health and well-being through provision of community facilities</li> <li>• Provision of improved health services</li> </ul>	<p><i>STRAT11 – supports the timely provision of additional facilities, services and infrastructure to meet identified needs, whether arising from new developments or existing community need.</i></p> <p><i>ECON2 of the Local Plan (Part Two) supports the retention of facilities and services.</i></p> <p><i>Policy SOC5 does support new or improved health facilities across the borough.</i></p>
<b>Draft Policy CFT2</b>  <b>Developer</b>	<p>The community have identified a range of local improvements which can be supported by development contributions arising from planning permissions being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure</li> <li>• impact on health and well-being</li> </ul>	<p>STRAT11 – supports the timely provision of additional facilities, services and infrastructure to meet identified needs, whether arising from new developments</p>

<b>Contributions</b>	<p>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"> <li>- Footpaths and walkways</li> <li>- <del>Enlargement</del> Improvements for educational facilities, either on existing site or elsewhere within the village.</li> <li>- Improvements to the Church Hall or the development of a new community building.</li> </ul>	through provision of community facilities.	or existing community need.
<b>Draft Policy CFT3 Tourism</b>	<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 <i>and are in accordance with Local Plan (part one) policy STRAT 9.</i></p> <p>Schemes which deliver the following improvements will be supported subject to other development plan policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By enabling greater appreciation of the Parish's landscape features and interaction with the natural environment</li> <li>- Improving the paths and bridleways around the parish to allow for greater ease of access</li> <li>- Providing contributions for signing around the parish, particularly signing for National</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit to local population through enhanced economic opportunities (<i>economy no direct SEA topic</i>)</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of community assets and infrastructure</li> </ul>	ECON3 – supports the expansion of existing tourism assets or the creation of new tourism opportunities.

	Cycle Route 5 and the pathway to the River Weaver from the top of Niddries Lane.		
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**Appendix 2: Comments received during consultation on draft Screening Report – December 2017**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date Consulted</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Environment Agency</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> November 2017</b>	<b>See correspondence below</b>
<b>Historic England</b>	<b>28th November 2017</b>	<b>See correspondence below</b>
<b>Natural England</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> October 2015</b>	<b>See correspondence below</b>

**See copies of the correspondence below:**



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 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dawn.hewitt@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Environment Agency  
Richard Fairclough House Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1HT.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)  
End

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



Charlotte Aspinall  
Cheshire West and Chester Council  
[charlotte.aspinall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.aspinall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Hombeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

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 Guidance<sup>1</sup>. 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](mailto: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



Historic England

Charlotte Aspinall  
Place Strategy  
Cheshire West and Chester Council  
4 Civic Way  
Elsmere Port  
CH65 0BE

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

4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
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](http://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



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