

**Strategic Environmental Assessment and
Habitats Regulation Assessment
Screening Determination
Draft Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan**

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

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1.0 Introduction

In accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC and the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), this document is the screening determination regarding the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Draft Tarporley 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).

The initial SEA screening opinion was based upon the policies set out in the Draft Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan (February 2015). The draft plan went out to public consultation between February-March 2015. A draft screening opinion was published and consulted upon at the same time with the statutory environmental bodies. Responses were received from English Heritage and Natural England, who agreed with the outcome of the screening exercise. This final screening determination addresses comments made during the consultation on the Draft Screening Opinion. The comments received during the consultation are set out at Appendix 2 of this document.

The Screening Determination has been updated to reflect the amendments to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan policies since the original screening was undertaken. The conclusion reached remains the same that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plans and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is therefore not required. Likewise, the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010), alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Location and geographical scope of the Draft Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan

The Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan covers the Tarporley Parish Council area. Tarporley is defined as a key service centre in the south of the borough of Cheshire West and Chester. The Parish extends over 510ha and has a population of 2,614 in

1,176 households¹ largely concentrated in the village of Tarporley itself, with some scattered farms and smaller settlements i.e. Birch Heath, in the wider Parish area.

Map 1 Tarporley Neighbourhood Area



Tarporley is a historic settlement with a designated Conservation Area around the High Street. It has several listed buildings and one Scheduled Monument. There are various environmental designations, wells and watercourses in the area. The village centre has a good range of shops and local facilities clustered around the High Street. Local facilities include Tarporley High School, Tarporley Church of England Primary School, the community centre and St Helens Church. The village has a small industrial estate, Tarporley Business Park, there are also workshops on Park Road and a business park on Birch Heath Road.

The key issues identified in the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan can be grouped around the four key themes of (i) economy, (ii) environment and heritage, (iii) Housing and (iv) improving facilities and connections. Main issues for the Neighbourhood Plan include;

¹ 2011 Census

- Supporting and growing the local economy; Tarporley has a buoyant local economy with a wide range of employers.
- Protecting built heritage and the natural environment; Tarporley has an attractive rural character with a wide range of natural assets providing a green infrastructure network.
- Providing a local planning framework for new housing, responding to the needs and aspirations of the local community; Tarporley is identified as a Key Service Centre to accommodate 300 new homes to 2030 in the Borough wide Local Plan. Specific issues on the scale, type and size of new housing are identified.
- Improving and maintaining community facilities and local infrastructure. Traffic, car parking and congestion are identified as specific concerns that need addressing. Increasing demand for new community facilities is also identified.

Relationship to other plans and programmes

Once made the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. The policy framework 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 SEA Screening is done on the basis of the Draft Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan policies, and the likelihood of any significant environmental effects arising as a result of the Draft Plan. It is not the role of the SEA Screening to assess issues of general conformity with strategic policies.

The current adopted Local Plan for the area is the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (adopted January 2015) and the retained policies of the Vale Royal Borough Local Plan (adopted 2006). Cheshire West and Chester

Council are also working towards the preparation of the Local plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies.

The key Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies applicable to Tarporley are STRAT1 (Sustainable Development); STRAT2 (Strategic Development); STRAT8 (Rural Area) and the suite of economic, social and environmental policies accompanying them including SOC1 (affordable housing), SOC2 (Rural exception sites), SOC3 (Housing mix and type), SOC 5 (health and well being), SOC6 (Open space sport and recreation), ENV2 (landscape), ENV3 (green infrastructure), ENV4 (biodiversity), ENV5 (historic environment), ENV6 (high quality design and construction).

There are also a range of retained Vale Royal Borough Local Plan First Review Alteration (2006) policies applicable to Tarporley. The key ones are GS5 (open countryside), STC1 (defined shopping areas) and a suite of natural environment, built environment, recreation, transport and landscape policies.

The Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and the Vale Royal Borough Local Plan (2006) have been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Assessment Directive and a screening exercise under the Habitats Directive. This screening exercise has considered the effects of the neighbourhood plan in this context. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan (Part One) sets out the impacts of the strategic policies that apply to Tarporley.

Scope of Neighbourhood Plan

The Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan seeks to build upon the policy framework in the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies. It has the following objectives;

1. To deliver a housing growth strategy tailored to the needs and context of Tarporley as a key service centre for the rural area
2. To deliver integrated transport infrastructure proportional to the growth in local needs, improving traffic management, car parking, pedestrian and cycle routes to create a pleasant and safe environment

3. To ensure sensitive, sustainable development which protects and enriches the landscape and built setting of heritage assets, and respects the village design statement
4. To ensure continued provision of a comprehensive range of local shops, services and community facilities that meet local needs
5. To encourage and enable growth in local employment opportunities
6. To seek improvements to utility infrastructure and digital connectivity to meet existing and future requirements of local residents
7. To protect and enhance the value of green space and landscape to support nature conservation
8. To maintain a green buffer zone around the perimeter of the Parish to ensure it does not merge with neighbouring settlements
9. To involve local people on an ongoing basis in the process of plan making, monitoring and delivery of development
10. To maintain a diverse, cohesive, safe and healthy community with greater use of shared facilities.

The draft plan includes a suite of policies for each of the four key themes of (i) economy, (ii) environment and heritage, (iii) Housing and (iv) improving facilities and connections.

These policies work within the strategic framework set by the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies. The proposed policies in the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan do not propose a level of development outside of the levels proposed in the local plan or significantly alters the planning policy position for the area. It provides local level guidance on how the future development set by the Local Plan should come forward.

2.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Legislative Background and Methodology

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

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

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

Screening methodology

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

The criteria for assessing whether a plan or programme is likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 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 and the retained policies of the Vale Royal Local Plan (2006). In order to inform this assessment a review of the anticipated effects of the draft policies and their relationship to policies at the Local Plan level was carried out. This is set out in 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. Table 1 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.
- Many of the policies seek to minimise and control the impacts of new development.
- The Plan allocates one site within the centre of the settlement for redevelopment. Any effects are dependent on the detailed nature of proposals coming forward. The policy includes mitigation criteria to minimise any potential adverse impacts therefore the environmental effects at this stage are not likely to be significant.
- The Plan identifies areas of local greenspace, green roadways and corridors and land used for sports and leisure. These policies are likely to have a beneficial effect for landscape, biodiversity and population and human health.
- The plan does not set the level of development for the area. It identifies a settlement boundary to potentially accommodate the housing requirement for Tarporley in the Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies. The strategic context for the Neighbourhood Plan has been set at the Local Plan level.

- Policies in the Plan aim to protect and enhance the conservation area and listed buildings in the village, and as such are likely to have a beneficial effect on culture and heritage.

Conclusion

As a result of the screening assessment whilst potential environmental effects have been predicated as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan policies (see Table 1 of the screening) these are not significant. The screening has concluded that there will not be significant environmental effects arising from the consultation draft Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan (February 2015). A Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan is therefore not required.

The Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (adopted January 2015) has been accompanied by a full Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Table 1: Assessment of the significant environmental effects of the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan		
1. Characteristics of the Plan		Significant Environmental Effect?
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p>	<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 Tarporley Neighbourhood 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 Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan will not impact on the strategic location, nature, size and operating conditions of new development over and above that set by current adopted Local Plan for the borough.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan, once made by the Local Authority, will be used to determine planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area. The Plan includes a settlement boundary for Tarporley to potentially accommodate the scale of new housing development required under Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan identifies one site allocation within the settlement boundary, with the potential for redevelopment for a mix of uses; car parking, education, or new housing. Any effects are dependent on the detailed nature of proposals coming forward. The policy includes mitigation criteria to minimise any potential adverse impacts therefore the environmental effects at this stage are not likely to be significant. The Plan also identifies areas of protected local greenspace, green roadways and corridors and areas of land for sport and leisure and also key viewpoints.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will provide local level guidance within the strategic framework on how the nature of development in the Tarporley Neighbourhood Area should be brought forward and the mitigation and enhancement measures required in order to minimise 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>The Neighbourhood plan has an aspiration to deliver significant improvements to community facilities, with the potential for the relocation of community/health facilities in the medium-long term. However, specific sites and schemes are not considered in this Plan, and are likely to require a future partial review as further information becomes available. On this basis, significant environmental effects are unlikely at this stage. Any future partial review of the Neighbourhood Plan would need to be re-screened.</p>	No
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan, once made by the Local Authority, will have development plan status and set planning policy for the Tarporley Neighbourhood 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.</p> <p>The Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan will also influence other actions and aspirations of the Tarporley Parish Council, where these are</p>	No

	non-planning related.	
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,	The Neighbourhood Plan is required under legislation to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. This is one of the basic condition tests. 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's for the borough. The Neighbourhood Plan will have limited influence over changing the strategic sustainable development policies in plans and policies at the higher strategic level.	No
What are the environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme?	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Plan Part One is a comprehensive overview of the issues in Cheshire West and Chester. There are no specific additional environmental problems identified for the Tarporley area.</p> <p>Some of the environmental issues/problems identified specific to Tarporley are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale and type of new housing, including affordable housing and those for specific groups (i.e. the retirement population) • An ageing population • Development pressure as a popular place to live • Need to conserve, preserve and enhance landscape and the historic and cultural environment • High dependence on the use of the car • Provision of local job opportunities and support for the rural businesses and enterprises • Continued provision and access to local services and community facilities including shops and healthcare • Access to public transport • Access to broadband <p>The Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan, in the context of the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plans for the Borough, will seek to address some of these environmental issues in the local context, not exacerbate them.</p>	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	The Neighbourhood Development 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 2 of this document.	No

2. Characteristics of the plan's effects and of the area likely to be affected²

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ³	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Enhancement and protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna	High probability, as new developments come forward. Neighbourhood Plan objectives and policies aim to value green space and landscape to support nature conservation. Effects would be short/medium/long term.	Potential cumulative effects as new developments come forward.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No
Biodiversity, flora and fauna loss	Low probability and infrequent as policies seek to minimise biodiversity loss.	None	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

² Schedule 1 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment, The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

³ The assessment here has considered whether the effect of the policy goes beyond the UK and impacts upon other EU territories. Given scale and nature of Neighbourhood Plan the effects are not considered to be transboundary.

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ³	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Loss or harm to Landscape	Low, infrequent probability. Neighbourhood Plan objectives aim to ensure sensitive sustainable development that protects and enriches the landscape and built setting of the village. Policies recognise the value of green space and landscape. Effects would be short, medium and long term.	None	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.		None	None	None	No
Loss or harm to Culture and Heritage	Low, infrequent probability. Neighbourhood Plan objectives aim to protect and enhance the built setting of Tarporley. Policies aim to ensure designs are sensitive to the setting of the conservation area and listed buildings. Effects would be short, medium and long term. A policy is also included to protect or enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets.	Cumulative effects are dependent on the precise nature and location of new developments coming forward.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	Policies aim to protect and enhance the conservation area and setting of historic buildings in the area.	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ³	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Effect on Water infrastructure	Low, infrequent probability. Neighbourhood Plan objectives support improvements to utilities infrastructure. Policy criteria aims to ensure there is no adverse effect on water supply and sewerage infrastructure (tourism). Design policy supports the use of water butts.	Cumulative effects are dependent on the precise nature and location of new developments coming forward.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No
Effect on Air	Low, infrequent probability. Policy supports accessibility by sustainable transport modes. Effects likely to be long term.	None	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No
Effect on Climatic factors	Low infrequent probability. Policy supports sustainable design and construction to incorporate energy conservation and resource efficiency measures. Effects would be long term.	None	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ³	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Beneficial effect on Population and Human Health	<p>Probability difficult to assess as depends on proposals coming forward and on the scale and nature of the development. Effect could be short, medium or long term depending on the nature of the proposals.</p> <p>The Plan allocates one site for mixed use development and specific effects will be dependent on the exact nature of the scheme.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides a supportive framework for the relocation of certain community and health facilities, although specific sites and schemes are not identified in this Plan.</p>	<p>Cumulative effects are dependent on the precise nature and location of new developments coming forward. There could be positive cumulative effects from the designation of local greenspace, or provision of open space/leisure /community facilities, provision of affordable housing.</p>	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Identified effects of the proposed policies	(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	(c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects ³	(d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	(f) value and vulnerability of effect on on (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Effect on Land and resources	<p>Probability difficult to assess as depends on proposals coming forward and on the scale and nature of the development. Effect could be short, medium or long term depending on the nature of the proposals. Policies could result in some loss of greenfield land, or the redevelopment of previously developed land.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is supportive of schemes to provide significant improvements to community facilities including the relocation of health provision. Such proposals are at an early stage and the effects are unknown and dependant on the specific proposals taken forward (likely to be through a partial review of the Neighbourhood Plan in due course)</p>	Cumulative effects are dependent on the precise nature and location of new developments coming forward. New development could result in some cumulative development (loss) of greenfield land, or the reuse of existing buildings.	None	None	Local, small scale at neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

3.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Legislative Background

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended in 2012) transpose the requirements of the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC into UK law. The Habitats Directive and Regulations afford protection to plants, animals and habitats that are rare and vulnerable in a European context.

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

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

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

Inter-relationship with the Local Plan HRA

The 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 Tarporley were assessed at the Local Plan level. This appraisal forms the baseline for the HRA screening assessment of the Tarporley 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 14 European designated sites identified within a 15km buffer from the boundaries of the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan. There are 9 Ramsar sites split between Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 and 2, 5 SAC's (River Dee and Bala Lake, Oak Mere and West Midlands mosses x3), and no SPA's.

These are shown in Map 2.

Outcome of high level screening

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

No

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

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan sets out how new development should come forward in Tarporley Neighbourhood Area, within the context of the adopted Local Plan (Part One) (2015) policies and retained policies of the Vale Royal Borough Local Plan (2006). It reflects the quantum of development set out at the Local Plan level.

The Draft Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan identifies a settlement boundary for the village, to accommodate the level of housing development proposed at the Local

Plan (Part One) strategic level. The settlement boundary has been drawn to reflect adopted Vale Royal Borough Local Plan policy and amended to incorporate extant planning commitments; as such is unlikely to have a significant environmental effect as any adverse effects would have been mitigated through the planning application process.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocates one site within the settlement boundary for redevelopment. The site is in existing use but detailed proposals for the site are at an early stage. The Plan notes that appropriate redevelopment could support a number of Plan objectives. Some local environmental effects are likely, but dependant on the detailed nature of proposals coming forward. The policy contains sufficient mitigation criteria to minimise any adverse impacts.

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

The Tarporley 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 Borough Local Plan.

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 Vale Royal Borough Local Plan for determining planning applications for new development. The quantum of development to come forward in Tarporley in the future is established in the Local Plan (Part One) policies. The Neighbourhood Plan will guide how this level of development should come forward locally.

Whether the Neighbourhood Plan alters the policy position for the area, in terms of HRA requirement, is set out in table 2 below.

Table 2: Screening of policies for altering Local Plan Policy	
Draft Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Change in policy position in Local Plan and policies to be retained? Y/N
TE1 Additional business premises and employment	No

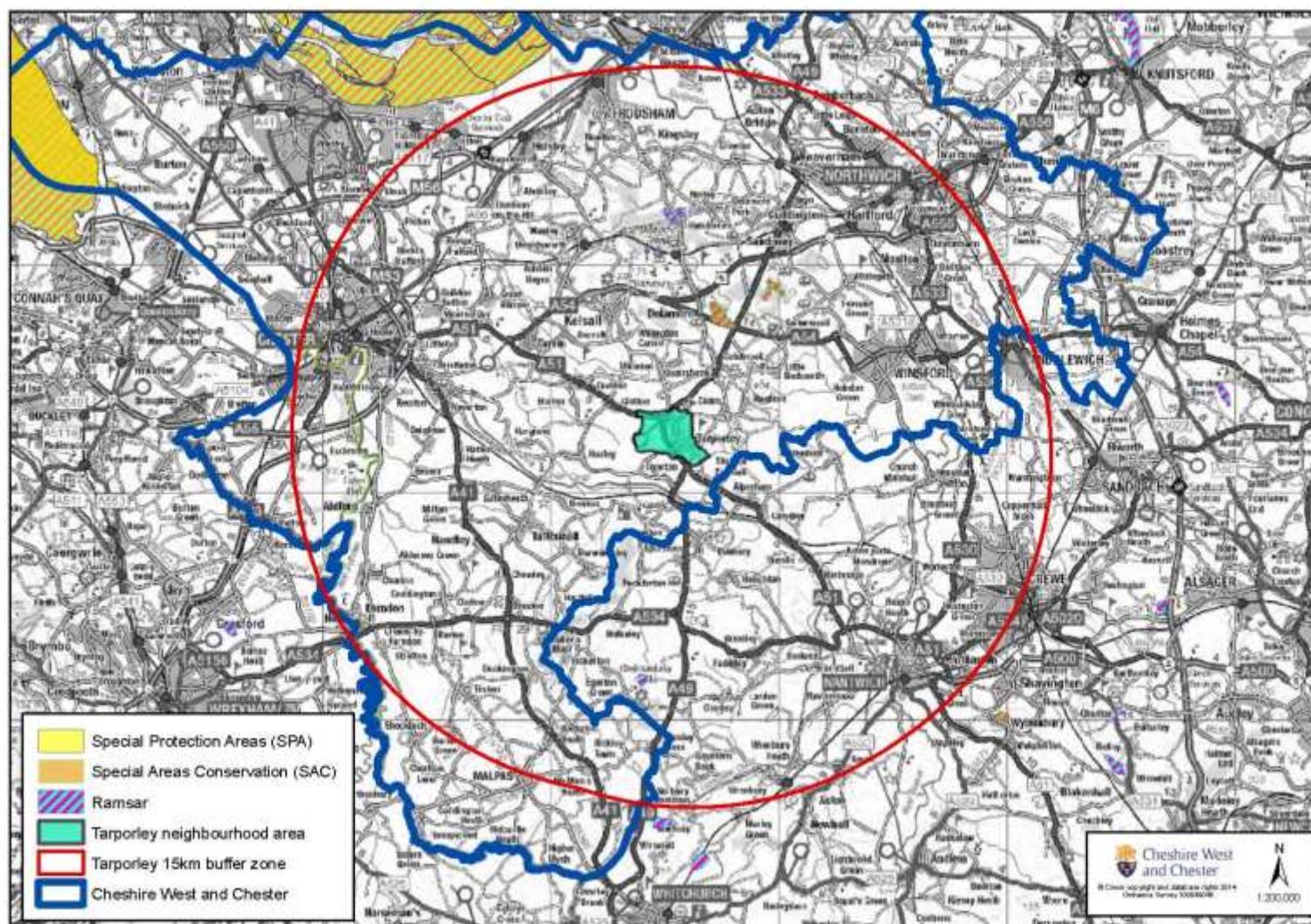
opportunities	
TE2 Protecting existing employment premises	No
TE3 Supporting a range of goods and services in the village centre	No
TE4 car parking	No
TE5 promoting and supporting tourism in Tarporley	No
TEH1 Rural character	No
TEH2 Settlement Pattern	No
TEH3 Design	No
TEH4 Protecting Heritage Assets	No
TH1 Settlement boundary and quantity of new development	No
TH1/1 Site allocation, former Royal British Legion Site, Tarporley	No
TH2 Scale of new housing development	No
TH3 Housing mix and densities	No
TH4 Affordable housing	No
TH5 Older people	No
TIFC1 provision and protection of facilities and services	No
TIFC2 community leisure facility	No
TIFC3 relocation of existing facilities	No
TIFC4 Transportation, car parking and accessibility	No
TIFC5 Communications Infrastructure	No

There are no specific issues highlighted in the HRA of the Local Plan (Part One) in relation to Tarporley Neighbourhood Area. Sufficient mitigation and control measures are included in the Local Plan (Part One) to avoid and mitigate any of these adverse effects on the integrity of European sites. It is considered that any proposals coming forward in Tarporley 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.

Conclusion

The Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d), alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Map 2- European Designations within a 15km distance of the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan



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

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of Biodiversity, flora and fauna; Population; Human health; Soil; Water; Air; Climatic factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage; Landscape.	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (and key VRBC retained Local Plan policies where relevant)
Draft Policy TE1 Additional business premises and employment opportunities	Supports the development of new employment opportunities in Tarporley, subject to specific policy criteria. Criteria relates to the wider Neighbourhood Plan objectives, residential amenity, open space/green infrastructure loss, traffic and car parking, location and scale of development and impact on local employment. Support for mixed use development and live/work units.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic) Prevents Biodiversity, flora and fauna loss Benefits Population and human health – prevents open space/green infrastructure loss and protects amenity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT1 Sustainable development ECON1 Economic growth, employment and enterprise STRAT10 transport and accessibility ENV3 Green Infrastructure SOC6 Open Space
Draft Policy TE2 Protecting existing employment premises	Protects existing employment premises from redevelopment to other uses, subject to specific policy criteria on marketing and alternative provision and commercial viability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECON1 Economic growth, employment and enterprise
Draft Policy TE3 Supporting a range of goods and services in the village centre	Support for new retail and service facilities where these enhance the vitality and viability of the village centre. Supports specialist, convenience and independent shopping facilities. Aims to retain the retail provision appropriate to the village centre, complimentary to the existing range of goods and services on offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic) Benefits to Population and health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT8 Rural area ECON1 Economic growth, employment and enterprise ECON2 Town centres VRBC retained policy STC1 defined shopping areas
Draft Policy TE4 Car Parking	Supports proposals for new public car parking facilities in Tarporley, subject to accessibility and landscaping, design, and setting of conservation area and listed buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic) Potential effects on Landscape Potential effects on Cultural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT10 transport and accessibility ENV2 Landscape ENV5 Historic Environment
Draft Policy TE5 Promoting and supporting tourism in Tarporley	Seeks to improve the quality and diversity of tourist facilities, attractions, accommodation and infrastructure providing certain policy criteria are met. Policy criteria relates to the character of the landscape and settlements, impacts on infrastructure (road, parking, water supply and sewerage), improves provision of employment and services, supports farm diversification or involves the re-use of rural buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic) Potential effects on Landscape Potential effects on Cultural heritage Potential effects on Water (water supply and sewerage) Benefits to Population and health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECON3 Visitor Economy ENV2 Landscape ENV1 flood risk and water management STRAT10 transport and accessibility
Draft Policy TEH1 Rural Character	Encourages developments that enhance the rural character of Tarporley. New development should consider the existing landscape and townscape character of Tarporley. Aims to avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits to Biodiversity, flora and fauna, retention, protection and replacement of trees/hedgerows. Identification of areas to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENV2 Landscape ENV3 Green Infrastructure

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of Biodiversity, flora and fauna; Population; Human health; Soil; Water; Air; Climatic factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage; Landscape.	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (and key VRBC retained Local Plan policies where relevant)
	<p>development on the best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>The policy is split into 3 sections; A. Trees and Hedgerows; B. Views and C. Green spaces.</p> <p>All new development is expected to consider the character principles identified in the policy.</p> <p>Map 5 designates green roadways and corridors to be maintained, protected and extended.</p> <p>Map 6 identifies local green spaces to be protected. Additional criteria is included to maintain allotment provision.</p> <p>Map 7 identifies land for sports and leisure</p>	<p>maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect on land and resources (Soil) by protecting agricultural land quality • Potential effects on Landscape, positively retains important views into and out of the village. • Benefits to Population and health through the identification of local green spaces, support for allotment space and sport and leisure land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENV4 biodiversity and geodiversity • SOC5 health and well being • SOC6 open space, sport and recreation • ENV6 high quality design and sustainable construction
Draft Policy TEH2 Settlement Pattern	<p>All new developments should consider the settlement pattern principles identified in the policy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. To retain, preserve and enhance the conservation area B. Limits the scale of residential development to a maximum of 20 dwellings per scheme. C. Layout should be in small clusters D. Vehicular access routes should avoid the high street E. Restricts new dwellings on plots of <0.12ha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on Cultural heritage • Potential effects on population and human health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENV5 Historic Environment • ENV6 high quality design and sustainable construction • SOC3 housing mix and type • STRAT10 transport and accessibility
Draft Policy TEH3 Design	<p>Contains a range of design principles for new development – general principles for new development, principles for new residential development and development within or adjacent to the conservation area.</p> <p>Design principles cover the following issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Historic buildings and conservation area B. Mix of housing types and sizes C. Dwelling heights D. Visual impact E. Building materials F. Energy conservation and efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect on Climatic factors, energy conservation and resource efficiency is supported • Potential effects on Landscape • Potential effects on Cultural heritage, considers setting of historic buildings and the conservation area • Potential effects on population and human health • Beneficial effect on Water, supports provision of water butts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRAT1 Sustainable development • ENV2 Landscape • ENV5 Historic Environment • ENV6 high quality design and sustainable construction

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of Biodiversity, flora and fauna; Population; Human health; Soil; Water; Air; Climatic factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage; Landscape.	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (and key VRBC retained Local Plan policies where relevant)
	<p>G. Garden size</p> <p>H. Light pollution</p> <p>I. Integrated waste recycling</p> <p>J. Parking spaces</p> <p>K. Roof design</p> <p>L. Window and door design</p>		
Draft Policy TEH4 Protecting Heritage Assets	Applies to designated and non-designated heritage assets and aims to protect or enhance features in a manner appropriate to their significance. Includes mitigation where necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on Cultural heritage, considers designated and non-designated assets and the nature of their significance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT1 Sustainable development ENV5 Historic Environment
Draft Policy TH1 Settlement Boundary and quantity of new housing development	<p>Defines the settlement boundary for Tarporley (shown on Map 8), to accommodate at least 300 new dwellings to 2030. Sets criteria for additional housing development above the 300 requirement including;</p> <p>A. Relocation of community facilities</p> <p>B. Community Right to Build Order or Neighbourhood Development Order</p> <p>Allows for sensitive adaptation and re-use of rural buildings outside the settlement boundary.</p> <p>Includes a site allocation of the former Royal British Legion site for a mix of uses including new housing.</p> <p>Allows for additional new housing above the 300 houses to 2030 where;</p> <p>A significant community benefit is provided such as the relocation of major community facilities (in line with other policies) or</p> <p>B within or adjoining the settlement boundary proposals are brought forward under a community right to build order or neighbourhood development order.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on population and human health, supports the provision of new housing and improved provision of community facilities Potential effects on population and human health – allocation of the former Royal British Legion site for a mix of uses Potential effect on land and resources (soil) – includes a site for potential redevelopment within the settlement boundary and allows for development to come forward adjoining the settlement boundary in certain circumstances <p>(Note; the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is supportive of schemes that could deliver significant improvements to community facilities, including relocation of health provision. However, specific sites and schemes are not proposed within this Plan. These discussions are at an early stage and as more detailed proposals come forward, this would trigger an early/partial review of the Plan. The Draft plan is clear that the focus is on improving infrastructure and ensuring no loss or reduction in public amenity. On this basis, significant environmental effects are unlikely. However, any early/partial review of the Neighbourhood Plan would</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT1 sustainable development STRAT2 strategic development STRAT8 rural area VRBC retained policy GS5 open countryside

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of Biodiversity, flora and fauna; Population; Human health; Soil; Water; Air; Climatic factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage; Landscape.	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (and key VRBC retained Local Plan policies where relevant)
		need re-screening at a later date if more detailed proposals are to be considered in a revised plan)	
Draft Policy TH1/1 Site allocation – former Royal British Legion site, Tarporley	The site is allocated for new development, to include a mix of uses including car parking, education use and housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on population and human health, supports the provision of new housing and improved provision of community facilities Potential effects on population and human health – allocation of the former Royal British Legion site for a mix of uses Potential effect on land and resources – includes a site for potential redevelopment within the settlement boundary <p>Note: The site was identified in response to consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan (February 2015). As such detailed proposals for the site are at an early stage, but the Plan notes that appropriate redevelopment could support a number of Plan objectives, to deliver new homes and reinforce the character of the settlement.</p> <p>Some environmental effects are likely from redevelopment, but this is dependent on the detailed nature of proposals coming forward. The policy contains sufficient mitigation criteria, to prevent the loss of car parking spaces, bowling green or allotments for the settlement, therefore the environmental effects are not likely to be significant at this stage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT1 sustainable development STRAT2 strategic development STRAT8 rural area VRBC retained policy GS5 open countryside
Draft Policy TH2 Scale of new housing development	<p>Policy supports new housing developments of up to 20 units within the settlement boundary. It seeks to phase subsequent housing developments (>5 units) on sites adjacent to current planning commitments (requiring 5 years since the occupation of the last dwelling on the adjacent site).</p> <p>The policy provides rural exceptions for additional housing development where proposals;</p> <p>A. Redevelop brownfield land, and protects and enhances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on population and human health, supports the provision of new housing including affordable housing. It also supports improved health, community and open space provision. Effect on land and resources (Soil), supports the redevelopment of brownfield land and conversion of existing buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT1 sustainable development SOC1 delivering affordable housing SOC2 rural exception sites SOC3 housing mix and type

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of Biodiversity, flora and fauna; Population; Human health; Soil; Water; Air; Climatic factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage; Landscape.	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (and key VRBC retained Local Plan policies where relevant)
	<p>environmental assets</p> <p>B. Sensitive conversion of existing buildings</p> <p>C. Schemes delivering major health, community facilities, open space or sports provision, where market housing is required as enabling development to support viability and delivery of these facilities</p> <p>D. Affordable housing led schemes</p>		
Draft Policy TH3 Housing mix and densities	<p>Policy supports the development of a balanced mixture of housing types and sizes.</p> <p>It specifically aims to meet the needs of first time buyers and older people.</p> <p>The policy encourages smaller 1 and 2 bedroom properties. It limits the gross internal floor area on developments >5 units to 130m2 per dwelling.</p> <p>The policy sets a maximum development density of 25dph on greenfield sites, with scope to exceed this within the settlement boundary if it is in keeping with surrounding character.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on population and human health through provision of a mix and type of new housing, to meet specific needs. • Potential effect on landscape character considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOC3 Housing mix and type
Draft Policy TH4 Affordable housing	<p>Policy requires affordable housing provision of 30% on developments >3 dwellings or 0.1ha or more.</p> <p>The policy requires affordable housing to be allocated to those with a local connection (as defined in Table 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan).</p> <p>The policy supports the integration of affordable housing. It considers the proportion of shared ownership/rented properties and sets specific criteria on rental values given the high value of the market in Tarporeley.</p> <p>Policy allows for viability to be considered where schemes deliver other community benefits in line with other policies of the Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on population and human health through the provision of affordable housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRAT1 sustainable development • SOC1 delivering affordable housing • SOC2 rural exception sites • SOC3 housing mix and type
Draft Policy TH5 Housing for older	<p>Supports the provision of housing for older people, including mixed use schemes, separate schemes or nursing homes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on population and human health through the provision of affordable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRAT1 sustainable development

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of Biodiversity, flora and fauna; Population; Human health; Soil; Water; Air; Climatic factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage; Landscape.	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (and key VRBC retained Local Plan policies where relevant)
people		housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOC1 delivering affordable housing SOC3 housing mix and type
Draft Policy TIFC1 Provision and protection of facilities and services	<p>Supports the improvement of existing or provision of new community facilities, where criteria are met.</p> <p>It does not allow for the change of use of existing facilities, unless policy criteria can be met.</p> <p>Supports the improvement or provision of new build changing facilities on sports and recreation grounds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on population and human health through the provision of new community facilities including those for sport and recreation. Beneficial effect on air as policy supports accessibility by sustainable transport modes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT1 sustainable development STRAT10 transport and accessibility ENV6 high quality design and sustainable construction SOC5 Health and well being SOC6 open space sport and recreation
Draft Policy TIFC2 Community Leisure Facility	Supports the provision of new multi-purpose sport and recreation facilities, subject to certain criteria being met. (A. need, B. scale and design, C. accessibility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on population and human health through the provision of new community facilities including those for sport and recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT1 sustainable development STRAT10 transport and accessibility SOC5 Health and well being SOC6 open space sport and recreation
Draft Policy TIFC3 Relocation of existing facilities	<p>Supports the relocation of existing community facilities to suitable locations outside the settlement boundary, providing certain criteria are met.</p> <p>A. Proposed relocation adjoins the settlement boundary</p> <p>B. Relocation site is as close to the village centre as possible and provide improved facilities, services and accessibility</p> <p>C. New development would improve health and /or community facilities</p> <p>D. The former site is developed for employment, parking, affordable housing, open space or other community uses</p> <p>E. The development demonstrates community approval through a Neighbourhood Development Order</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on population and human health through the provision of improved community facilities. Potential effects on land and resources, through potential relocation of facilities. Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic) <p>Note: the Neighbourhood plan provides a supportive framework to address the changing needs of healthcare in the area, to be taken forward through a Neighbourhood Development Order or Community Right to Build Order and would trigger a potential partial review of the Neighbourhood plan. At this stage there are no significant environmental effects identified. However, any early/partial review of the Neighbourhood Plan would need re-screening at a later date if more detailed proposals are to be</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRAT1 sustainable development STRAT2 strategic development STRAT8 rural area STRAT10 transport and accessibility SOC5 Health and Well Being SOC6 open space and recreation VRBC retained policy GS5 open countryside

Plan elements	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of Biodiversity, flora and fauna; Population; Human health; Soil; Water; Air; Climatic factors; Material Assets; Cultural Heritage; Landscape.	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (and key VRBC retained Local Plan policies where relevant)
		considered in a revised plan)	
Draft Policy TIFC4 Transportation, car parking and accessibility	<p>Policy requires traffic generation to be considered as part of new development proposals and mitigate any adverse impacts.</p> <p>Supports developments that reduce impacts on traffic congestion and car parking in the centre of the village.</p> <p>Supports proposals for improved traffic access at the High School, including a new bus entrance, bus park and turning circle off Nantwich Road.</p> <p>New development are required to incorporate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Safe walking and cycling routes, with hard surface materials B. Provision of cycle racks C. Links to public rights of way D. Retain existing footpaths and create new ones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on population and human health through the provision of improved accessibility • Beneficial effect on air as policy supports accessibility by sustainable transport modes. • New traffic access at the High School site could have some small scale effects on local landscape character, dependant on the specific nature of any proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRAT1 sustainable development • STRAT10 transport and accessibility • ENV6 high quality design and sustainable construction • SOC5 Health and well being • SOC6 open space sport and recreation
Draft Policy TIFC5 Communications infrastructure	<p>New development will be required to make provision for high speed broadband and latest communication technologies network.</p> <p>Supports the improvement of new telecommunication infrastructure, providing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Appropriate design and placement B. Design and siting does not impact on the conservation area, historical buildings or visually sensitive landscape or views. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic) • Potential effect on landscape character considered • Potential effects on Cultural heritage considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRAT1 sustainable development • STRAT10 transport and accessibility • ENV6 high quality design and sustainable construction • ENV5 Historic Environment • ENV2 landscape

Appendix 2: Comments received on the draft Screening Opinion

Agency	Date Consulted	Consultee Response	Council response
Environment Agency	13 th February 2015	16 th February 2015 Acknowledgement letter received. No further response provided.	No comment
English Heritage	13 th February 2015	23 rd February 2015 Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA Screening Report Thank you for consulting English Heritage about the above document. Draft SA Screening Report Thank you for consulting English Heritage, on this occasion we have no comment to make on the Draft SA screening reports, we do not wish to be consulted at future stages unless the developing plan proposes significant impacts or changes in relation to designated heritage assets or their setting that would require statutory notification to English Heritage by virtue of government notification procedures, See http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment/consultation-and-notification-requirements-for-heritage-related-applications/ We have attached a list of heritage assets in this area for your information. We note publication of the Tarporley Draft neighbourhood Plan and have no further comment if published in this form. By way of guidance: English Heritage has produced a document, which you might find helpful in providing guidance on the effective assessment of the historic environment in Strategic Environmental Assessments. This can be found at http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/strategic-envirom-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/ . English Heritage recommends that a scoping report should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the objectives of relevant policies, plans and programmes; • Establish the baseline for the historic environment, including any trends and targets and gaps in the existing information; • Identify sustainability issues and opportunities for the historic environment and heritage assets; • Develop sustainability appraisal objectives; 	Comments noted in relation to the SEA Screening Opinion. The Draft Screening Opinion concluded that significant environmental effects are unlikely and a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan is therefore not required. These SEA Screening has been updated to reflect the working amendments to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan policies since the original screening was undertaken. The conclusion reached remains the same that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is therefore not required. Likewise, the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010), alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Agency	Date Consulted	Consultee Response	Council response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify indicators and targets; Consider how alternatives will be assessed; Provide sufficient information on the proposed methodology for the appraisal to assess whether effects upon the historic environment will be properly addressed. <p>English Heritage suggests that scoping reports are tailored to the type, purpose and level of plan under consideration. This accords with the NPPF, which requires that local plans are based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area.</p> <p>Context</p> <p>The report should identify the built environment and its character and distinctiveness and refer to the historic environment. There is the potential for undesignated assets and archaeology on some sites, and these should be referred to within the baseline information.</p> <p>Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies</p> <p>In terms of the plans and policies identified, this needs to cover all those relevant at an international, national and local level that would have a direct bearing for the historic environment. Page 5 and 6 of our guidance provides a list of the most relevant ones and the Scoping Report should be amended to include these.</p> <p>Baseline information</p> <p>Baseline information should describe the current and future state of the historic environment, providing the basis for identifying sustainability issues, predicting and monitoring effects and alternative ways of dealing with them. It can use both quantitative and qualitative information and should be kept up to date. It is important that meaningful conclusions can be drawn from the baseline information; what it means for the Local Plan and how the historic environment is to be dealt with.</p> <p>The baseline information in the scoping report on the historic environment should include all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged. This not only involves undesignated (or local heritage assets) but the potential for unrecorded archaeology, and historic landscape character areas for example. Appendix 1 of our guidance provides a list of other data sources available, which covers a wide variety of the historic environment and Page 8 provides a list of the recommendations that should be used to determine the adequacy of the baseline information.</p> <p>The NPPF recognises the importance of undesignated heritage assets and therefore this should be included within the baseline data. The source of this information should be included within the Scoping Report and reference made to them and recognise the opportunities for their enhancement</p>	

Agency	Date Consulted	Consultee Response	Council response
		<p>and contribution to for example, well being, local identity and tourism.</p> <p>The importance of local character and identity including the landscape and townscape of an area is an important consideration. The Scoping Report should recognise the importance of this and the source of this information should be included within the Scoping Report and reference made to them in key issues and opportunities.</p> <p>SEA objectives</p> <p>It is important that the role the historic environment plays in sustainable development and the contribution it makes to delivering social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits is recognised. The historic environment underpins sustainable development and therefore, it may warrant including in other objectives including the need for specific reference to landscape character. Our guidance provides further assistance in the various ways the historic environment can be incorporated into the objectives in the scoping report.</p> <p>English Heritage strongly advises that you engage conservation, archaeology and urban design colleagues at the local and county level to ensure you are aware of all the relevant features of the historic environment and that the historic environment is effectively and efficiently considered as part of the Local Plan, the allocation of any site and in the preparation of the SEA. They are also best placed to advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR). They will be able to provide you with the Historic Environment Records for the area including any relevant studies, and ensure a joined-up and robust approach is undertaken.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Darren Ratcliffe</p> <p>Historic Places Adviser (North West)</p>	
Natural England	13 th February 2015	<p>18th March 2015</p> <p>Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan – Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement</p> <p>Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 18 March 2015 which was received by Natural England on the same date.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Natural England is in agreement with the Screening Statement, as long as the proposed policies of the Neighbourhood Plan do not alter the strategic policy framework assessed in the Local Plan Part</p>	<p>Comments noted in relation to the SEA Screening Opinion. The Draft Screening Opinion concluded that significant environmental effects are unlikely and a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan is therefore not required.</p> <p>These SEA Screening has been updated to</p>

Agency	Date Consulted	Consultee Response	Council response
		<p>One Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment Report then a separate HRA and SEA will not be required.</p> <p>If this situation changes then a separate SEA and HRA Screening will be required and Natural England would wish to be consulted.</p> <p>We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Janet Baguley using the contact details below. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.</p>	<p>reflect the working amendments to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan policies since the original screening was undertaken. The conclusion reached remains the same that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is therefore not required.</p> <p>Likewise, the Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010), alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>