

Environmental Assessment Statement

Project: 23-027 Congleton Neighbourhood Plan
Date: July 2025
Purpose: To set out how the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Context

1. This statement sets out how the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The regulations require any plan or policy to determine whether it is likely to have significant of environmental effects, and as necessary mitigate for or avoid, these effects.
2. Regulation 9(1) requires the responsible authority - in this case the Town Council who have taken on the role of the Neighbourhood Forum, through a Working Group, as described under regulation 8 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 - to determine whether or not the plan or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.
3. On behalf of the Town Council, Cheshire East Borough Council have prepared and consulted upon a screening opinion for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
4. Regulation 6 of the Environmental Assessments Regulations (2014), states that an environmental assessment needs to be carried out for a plan or programme if it is determined under regulation 9(1) that the plan or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.

The Screening Report

5. Cheshire East Borough Council have undertaken Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Screening on the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan which is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan submission package. On the basis of the screening report and consultation with Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency it is considered that significant effects are unlikely and that the neighbourhood plan does not require full SEA. No negative effects are identified.



Conclusions

6. In reaching this determination, the following key issues have been considered:
 - A screening opinion based on the draft Regulation 15 Neighbourhood Plan (prepared in accordance with regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012) confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan would not have significant environmental effects;
 - It is considered that other plans and policies at the national and Borough level, and those which are included within the remainder of the Neighbourhood Plan are sufficient in all regards to mitigate any possible residual negative environmental effects;
 - All policies have been tested against sustainability objectives.
7. This statement is considered to satisfy the requirements of Regulation 9(3) and states the reasons for this determination.

