

**Strategic Environmental Assessment,
Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats
Regulations Assessment Screening
Determination for
Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan**

Prepared on behalf of Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group by

Cheshire West and Chester Council

March 2021

Contents

1.0	Introduction.....	2
2.0	Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening.....	6
3.0	Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening.....	8

Appendix 1: SEA Screening - Overview of policies and identified effects of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan (June 2020)

Appendix 2: SEA Screening – Assessment of significant environmental effects of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 3: SEA Screening – Characteristics of the plan’s effects and of the area likely to be affected

Appendix 4: HRA Screening – European sites relevant to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 5: HRA Screening – Screening of Neighbourhood Plan policies for Likely Significant Effect

Appendix 6: Comments received on the initial SEA Screening Opinion and HRA Screening

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 Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan. This document also sets out the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and identifies whether Appropriate Assessment is required under European Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

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.

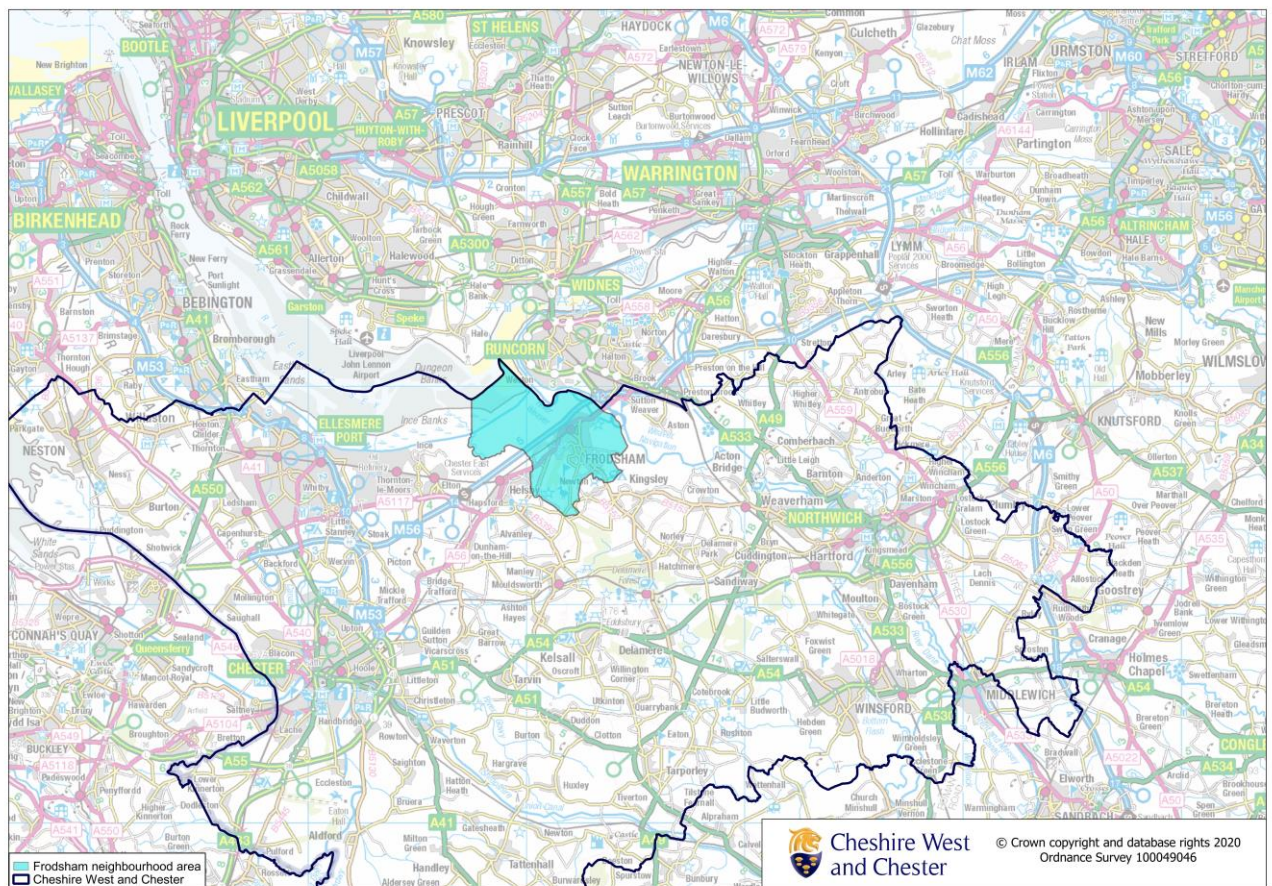
A draft screening opinion was produced in January 2021 based upon the policies set out in the draft Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan (June 2020). The Council has a duty to consult Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. Details of the bodies consulted and the responses received on SEA and HRA are provided in Appendix 6. Responses were received from each of these statutory consultees, who agreed with the outcome of the initial screening exercise, that SEA is required.

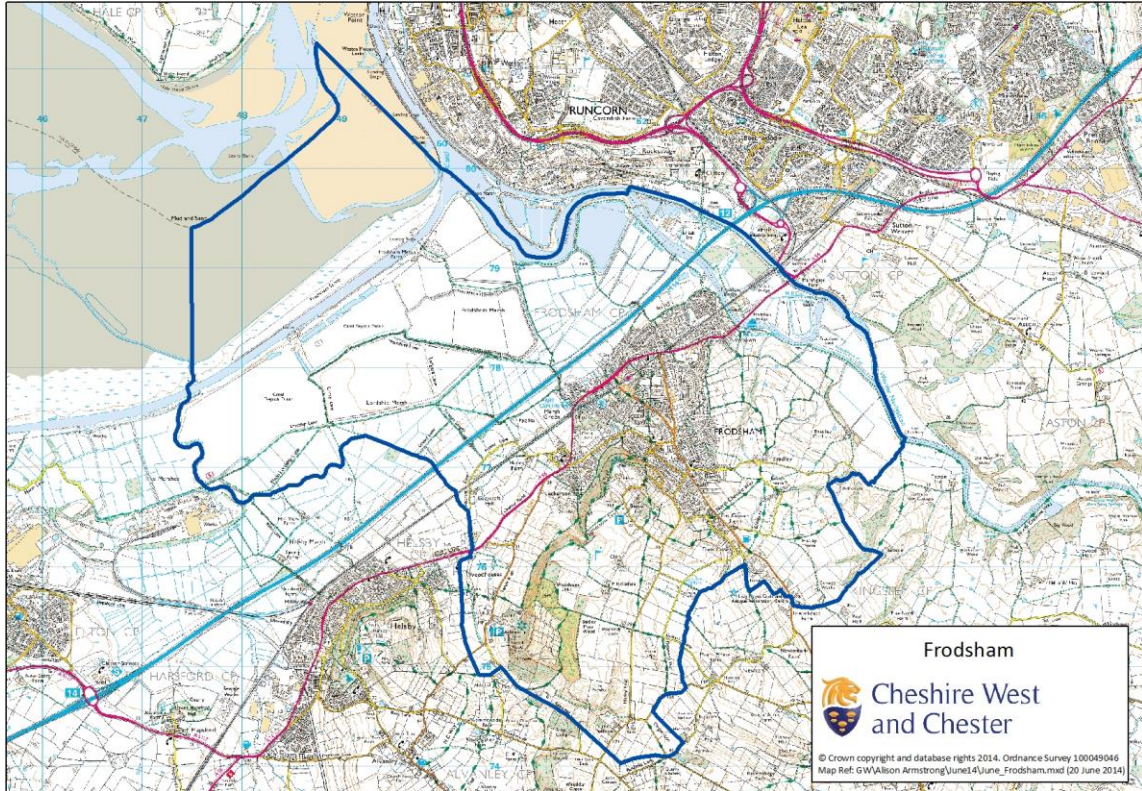
Location and geographical scope of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan

Frodsham is a market town located to the north of the borough within the North Cheshire Green Belt and is designated as a key service centre in the Local Plan which provides higher order services to the surrounding rural villages. The Neighbourhood Area follows the boundary of the area covered by Frodsham Town Council which encompasses the settlement of Frodsham. It is surrounded by more rural areas including Kingsley to the south, Aston to the east, Helsby and Alvanley to the west and the river Mersey to the north.

The Frodsham Neighbourhood Area is shown on the maps below.

Map 1: Frodsham Neighbourhood Area





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 current adopted Local Plan for the area is Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (adopted January 2015) and the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies (adopted July 2019). The Local Plan (Part One) sets out the overall vision, strategic objectives, spatial strategy and strategic planning policies for the borough to 2030, with supporting policies in the Local Plan (Part Two).

The 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 Local Plan (Part Two).

Scope of Neighbourhood Plan

The vision for the neighbourhood plan is that Frodsham will:

- Be thriving and sustainable
- Value its community and heritage
- Encourage innovation, collaboration, and social cohesion
- Promote access to services

Objectives for the plan, arising from consultation with the local community, seek to:

- provide a mix of dwellings, that meet the needs of Frodsham now and in the future, and address the changing demographics and the towns sustainability;
- ensure the built environment fits in with the local character of Frodsham in terms of materials, scale, accessibility and sustainability
- encourage the growth of current businesses and support new businesses in Frodsham
- encourage development of Frodsham's tourism and visitor economy
- designate and therefore protect all local Green Spaces.
- prioritise developments that retain, conserve, maintain, protect and provide additional or new Green Spaces for community and social use.
- promote opportunities for residents and visitors to Frodsham to maintain and enhance their health and well-being by providing the provision of sports, recreation, cultural, leisure and play facilities that enrich their quality of life.
- encourage sustainable transport and reduce congestion and vehicle emissions
- ensure new pathways and signage are in a style sympathetic with those existing and compatible with the Conservation Area
- ensure connections within the town and to adjacent areas facilitate easy and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists and are designed for the needs of an ageing population.

The vision and objectives have been translated into plan policies under the chapter headings of housing, economic development and the visitor economy, green spaces, recreation and leisure and connectivity and access.

The Draft Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan (June 2020) has been prepared to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan (Part One) and the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies. Frodsham is located in the rural area of the borough and identified as a key service centre through the Local Plan. Within key service centres, the Local Plan supports development that serves local needs in the most accessible and sustainable locations to sustain vibrant rural communities. Development should be appropriate in scale and design to conserve each settlement's character and setting.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposed nine residential land allocations providing an estimated 116 residential units. This would equate to approximately 109 units above the net housing requirement of 250 for Frodsham set out in the Local Plan (Part One); an increase of approximately 27%. The Local Plan figure is 'at least' and the SA of the Local Plan (Part One) was prepared on the basis of this figure being exceeded through the mechanism of a Neighbourhood Plan.

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

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

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 implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The criteria for assessing whether a plan or programme is likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The assessment criteria used to determine whether a plan or programme will have significant environmental effects are separated into two categories:

- those relating to the characteristics of the plan; and
- those relating to the characteristics of the plan's effects and of the area likely to be affected.

In order to undertake the identification of the likely significance of effects, an assessment has been undertaken of each policy of the Neighbourhood Plan, its potential effects and its relationship to Local Plan (Part One) strategic policies and the policies in the Local Plan (Part Two). This helps to assess the impact that the Neighbourhood Plan will have above and beyond the impact of existing Local Plan policies. This assessment is set out in the table in Appendix 1.

The assessment of the significant environmental effects of the draft Neighbourhood Plan is set out in Appendix 2. The characteristics of the plans effects and the area likely to be affected are set out in Appendix 3.

Conclusion

In accordance with Part 2(9) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, as a result of the SEA screening assessment, Cheshire West and Chester Council consider that on the basis of the additional residential units to be provided above the Local Plan housing requirement for Frodsham, it is likely there will be significant environmental effects arising from the Draft Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan. As such, a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Draft Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan is required.

3.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Legislative background

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 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 the European sites. This will indicate whether a full Appropriate Assessment is required. The regulations require that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed, are considered in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the relevant European site(s).

Inter-relationship with the Local Plan HRA

The Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies has already been through the HRA process, and the results detailed in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Publication Draft (Part 1) Strategic Policies Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report.

The HRA for the Local Plan (Part One) identified 12 European sites to include within the HRA: Oak Mere SAC; Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site; West Midlands Mosses SAC; River Dee and Bala Lake SAC; Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar; Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar; Liverpool Bay SPA; Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC; Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA; Sefton Coast SAC; Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and River Eden SAC

Information about all of these sites, the reasons for designation, pressures and pathways of impacts are provided in the HRA for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two).

Map 2 shows the European sites that are within 15km of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan area. All of the other European sites have been screened out from this assessment as impacts would not occur due to the distance or would be so small and insignificant in scale that they would not have a Likely Significant Effect, even when combined with other plans or projects. The following sites have been screened out as they are outside the 15km radius for the Frodsham Neighbourhood Area:

- Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar;
- Liverpool Bay SPA;
- Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC;
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA;
- Sefton Coast SAC;
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and
- River Eden SAC.

Due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered relevant to include these sites in the HRA Screening of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan.

The European protected sites that fall within a 15km radius of the Neighbourhood Area (as shown on Map 2) are all included within the HRA Screening. Appendix 4 identifies whether there could be potential impacts arising from the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, on the European protected sites and their reasons for designation.

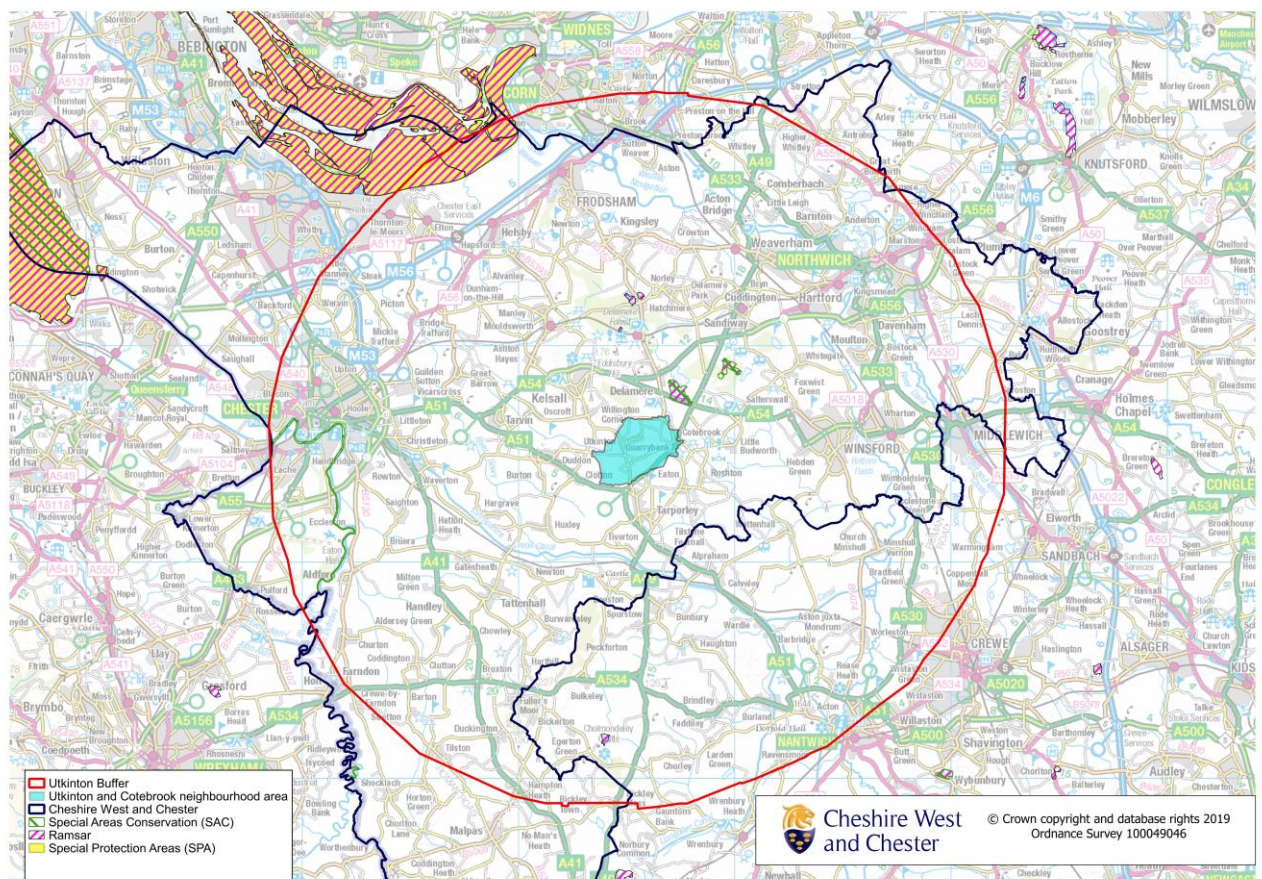
The conservation objectives of the European sites are taken into account. These include maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species

- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

The HRA undertaken for the Local Plan (Part One) and (Part Two) forms part of the baseline for the HRA screening assessment of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan. The potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above those already assessed for the Local Plan have been considered. The Local Plan (Part One) was identified through the HRA process, as not leading to a Likely Significant Effect on European Sites. The HRA of the Local Plan (Part Two) concluded that, in the context of the over-arching strategic policies contained within the Local Plan (Part One) comprises a sufficient policy framework to enable the subsequent delivery of necessary measures that would avoid or adequately mitigate adverse effects on internationally designated sites and thus enable a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity.

Map 2: European designations within a 15km distance of the Frodsham Neighbourhood plan



Appendix 4 identifies whether there could be potential impacts arising from the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, on the European protected site and their reasons for designation.

The conservation objectives of the European sites will be taken into account. These include maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

The HRA undertaken for the Local Plan (Part One) and (Part Two) forms part of the baseline for the HRA screening assessment of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan. The potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above those already assessed for the Local Plan have been considered. The Local Plan (Part One) was identified through the HRA process, as not leading to a Likely Significant Effect on European Sites. The HRA of the Local Plan (Part Two) concluded that, in the context of the over-arching strategic policies contained within the Local Plan (Part One) comprises a sufficient policy framework to enable the subsequent delivery of necessary measures that would avoid or adequately mitigate adverse effects on internationally designated sites and thus enable a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity.

The European sites are also subject to certain pressures that are outside the scope of the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans and therefore have not been included in the table above. Table 1 below identifies the potential pressures (which may be relevant to one or several of the European sites) and explains why it is not considered relevant to the HRA of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 1: Potential pressures outside the scope of the HRA

Pressure	Reasons outside scope of this HRA
Disturbance of sediment releasing legacy heavy metal pollution that is bound into the sediment.	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan relate to land-based uses and operations, which will not disturb sediment within European sites.
Pollution via commercial shipping by chemical or	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant impact on commercial

noise pollution and dumping of litter at sea	shipping.
Navigational / aggregate dredging resulting in physical loss and alteration of coastal processes or damage of marine benthic habitat	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant impact on navigational or aggregate dredging.
Overfishing of particular species	Fishing levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
Overgrazing of ungrazed / little grazed saltmarsh	Grazing levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
Damage of marine benthic habitat directly from fishing methods	Commercial fishing methods and levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
The need to manage continuing coastal erosion at protected sites outside CWaC	Neighbourhood Plans within CWaC will not impact on management of coastal erosion in areas outside CWaC.
The need to develop and maintain management practices which sustain the conservation value of the area for protected sites outside CWaC.	Neighbourhood Plans cannot influence management practices for protected sites outside CWaC.
Loss or damage of habitat as a result of increasing off-shore exploration and production activity associated with oil and natural gas on protected sites outside CWaC.	Neighbourhood Plans within CWaC cannot control oil and gas exploration and production activity outside CWaC.
Coastal squeeze from land reclamation and coastal flood defences and drainage in European sites outside CWaC.	Neighbourhood Plans within CWaC will not have a significant impact on coastal squeeze resulting from land reclamation, coastal flood defences and drainage in areas outside CWaC.

HRA screening

The Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation and therefore needs to be assessed for Likely Significant Effects.

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 and Part Two) HRA Screening Report and do not have Likely Significant Effects beyond this, then Appropriate Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan will not be required.

The Neighbourhood Plan does allocate sites for development, which makes it more likely to have significant effects resulting from specific development supported through the Plan, however the Local Plan (Part One) allows for the provision of 'at least' 250 dwellings in Frodsham which has already been through the HRA process and was found not to have any significant effects.

Appendix 5 identifies whether the Neighbourhood Plan alters the policy position for the area. It also assesses whether each policy has a Likely Significant Effect alone. If a Likely Significant Effect is identified, the policy would be taken forward for further investigation through Appropriate Assessment. If there is no Likely Significant Effect when considering the policy alone, the final column assesses whether the policy could have a Likely Significant Effect when combined with the effects of other relevant policies, plans or projects.

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Plan will not work in isolation and will be used alongside other development plan policies including the Local Plan Part One and Local Plan (Part Two) for determining planning applications for new development. The quantum of development to come forward in Frodsham Neighbourhood Area in the future is set by Local Plan policy. The Neighbourhood Plan will guide how this should come forward locally through the allocation of 9 sites for future housing.

There are no specific issues highlighted in the HRA of the Local Plan in relation to Frodsham, although there were other more general potential impacts resulting from the quantum and location of development proposed for the borough as a whole in the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two). However, this was considered within the HRAs for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) and the HRAs concluded that there were sufficient mitigation and control measures in the policy framework of the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) to avoid and mitigate any of these adverse effects on the integrity of a European site in the Local Plan.

It is not considered that the policies and proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan in general will add significantly to the impacts and will not prevent the mitigation and control measures from avoiding and mitigating the effects sufficiently. Specifically, however it is considered likely that without mitigation, the proposed housing allocations are likely to have a significant effect on the Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar. The impacts may arise from deterioration of water quality, bird disturbance and air quality impacts on Frodsham Marshes which are functionally linked with the protected SPA.

Therefore, it is considered that proposals coming forward for Frodsham on the allocated sites, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan could result in a Likely Significant Effect on a European site above and beyond those already identified and assessed through the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) Habitats Regulation Assessment Report.

It may be possible for the potential Likely Significant Effects to be dealt with through amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan or other mitigation measures, but this would need to be considered through preparation of a full Appropriate Assessment.

The Screening Determination made by Cheshire West and Chester Council is that the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d), alone or in combination with other plans and projects. As such, Appropriate Assessment is considered to be required.

Appendix 1: SEA Screening - Overview of policies and identified effects of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan.

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 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
<p>H1</p> <p>Location of housing development</p> <p>Includes housing allocations.</p>	<p>Supports residential development where they are on brownfield sites, identified in the Masterplan document, provide dwellings within the settlement boundary, support active travel are within 800m of the junction of Church St and Main Street and create opportunities for Self-Build.</p>	<p>The policy promotes a higher level of development through housing allocations in the key service centre, than provided for through the Local plan (Part One) and Local Plan (Part Two).</p> <p>Providing sufficient housing to meet needs (No direct SEA topic)</p> <p>Population and human health - Supports housing development</p> <p>Effect on land and resources (Soil) from new development</p> <p>Climatic factors and air.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <p>STRAT 2 – Strategic development STRAT 8 – Rural area STAT 9 – Green Belt and countryside</p> <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <p>R1 – Development in the rural area DM1 – Development on previously developed land DM19 – Proposals for residential development</p>
<p>H2</p> <p>Housing layout and</p>	<p>Sets out principles of design including respecting views and vistas, complementing the area's green</p>	<p>Population and human health - protecting residential amenity can have a positive effect on health and</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV6 – High quality design and sustainable construction

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 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
design	infrastructure, biodiversity and links to open countryside, retaining mature trees should be retained where possible and developments adjacent to main roads should provide a green buffer to reduce pollution.	well being. Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, Enhancement and creation of habitats, including trees/woodlands. Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV2 – Landscape - ENV3 – Green Infrastructure Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM3 – Design, character and visual amenity - DM 2 Impact on residential amenity - DM 44 - Protecting and enhancing the natural environment - DM 45 - Trees, woodland and hedgerows
H3 Housing mix and type	New housing should provide a mix of house types, tenures, and sizes taking account of the needs in the area Developments should provide appropriate communal spaces including play and leisure areas.	Population and health – supports social inclusion within the community, providing access to community facilities and services.	Local Plan (Part One) policies: SOC 3 - Housing mix and type Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - DM 20 – Mix and type of new housing development
H4 Affordable housing	Sets a requirement that on sites that have a capacity of three or more dwellings or comprise an area of 0.1 hectares 30% must be Affordable	Population and Human Health Housing (no SEA topic) Climatic factors and air	Local Plan (Part One) policies: - SOC1 – Delivering affordable housing Local Plan (Part Two) policies:

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 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
	<p>Housing.</p> <p>Affordable Housing should be provided in Perpetuity and for those with a local connection to Frodsham.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 23 – Delivering affordable housing
<p>H5</p> <p>Design and character</p>	<p>New residential development will be required to consider the design principles and detailed guidance contained within the Frodsham Design Codes report and the Frodsham Town Design Statement.</p>	<p>Protect cultural heritage and landscape</p> <p>Population and human health - protecting residential amenity can have a positive effect on health and well being.</p> <p>Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna</p> <p>Reduce the potential impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV6 – High quality design and sustainable construction <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM3 – Design, character and visual amenity - DM4 – Sustainable construction
<p>H6</p> <p>Heritage</p>	<p>New developments must take account of the desirability of preserving or enhancing designated and non-</p>	<p>Protect cultural heritage and landscape.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV5 – Historic Environment

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 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
assets	designated heritage assets and their settings or any features of special architectural or historic interest		Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 46 - Development in conservation areas - DM 47 - Listed buildings - DM 48 - Non-designated heritage assets - DM 50 - Archaeology
EDVE1 Business and employment	Supports the development of new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses in Frodsham subject to principles of local character and residential amenity and impacts on highway safety.	Population and health – supports social inclusion within the community, providing access to services in Frodsham. Supporting the economy (no direct SEA Topic) Population and health – supports access to local opportunities for employment.	Local Plan (Part One) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 8 – Rural area - ECON1 – Economic growth, employment and enterprise Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R3 – Employment land provision in the rural area - DM5 – Protection and refurbishment of employment land and premises
ECVE2 Tourism and the visitor economy	Supports proposals that enhance and improve existing tourist attractions and facilities or that create new tourism opportunities.	Supporting the economy (no direct SEA Topic) Protect cultural heritage.	Local Plan (Part One) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECON3 – Visitor economy Local Plan (Part Two) policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 9 – Visitor accommodation

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 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
EDVE3 Retail and services	<p>Proposals for new retail (particularly for independent retailers) service and leisure facilities will be supported subject to a number of criteria.</p> <p>Developments should also be located within the defined shopping area and proposals should be of a scale and design which are sympathetic to the distinctive character of the historic core</p>	<p>Population and health – supports social inclusion within the community, providing access to services.</p> <p>Protect cultural heritage.</p> <p>Supporting the economy (no direct SEA Topic)</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECON2 – Town Centres <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -DM14 – City and town centres
GSRL1 Protecting our Green Spaces	<p>Priority will be given to developments that: retain, preserve, maintain, protect and provide additional or new Green Spaces for communal and social use.</p>	<p>Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts</p> <p>Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 35 - Open space and new development DM 36 - Provision for sport and recreation
GSRL2 Developing	<p>Encourages developments that maximises opportunities for activities enhancing recreation, sport, leisure</p>	<p>Population and health – supports social inclusion within the community,</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation

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 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
existing and new activities	and mental well-being.	providing access to community facilities and services in Frodsham.	Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - DM 36 - Provision for sport and recreation - DM 37 - Recreational routeways
GSRL3 Maintaining our Green Spaces	Supports developments that retains, maintains and protects existing green and open spaces for communal and social use. Promotes rainwater harvesting.	Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna	Local Plan (Part One) policies: - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation - ENV3 – Green infrastructure - ENV1 – Flood risk Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - DM 35 - Open space and new development
GSRL4 Creating new Green Spaces	Encourages developments that create or develop additional green community/recreational spaces.	Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna	Local Plan (Part One) policies: - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation - ENV3 – Green infrastructure Local Plan (Part Two) policies: - DM 35 - Open space and new development

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 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
<p>CA1</p> <p>Infrastructure with development</p>	<p>Developments will be supported where they provide access roads within development, footway connections, conformity of supporting infrastructure, ease of access of footways and electric vehicle charge points.</p>	<p>Protect and improve air quality, by managing traffic impacts</p> <p>Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts</p> <p>Reduce the potential impacts of climate change through promoting renewable energy.</p> <p>Population and health – access to countryside promotes health and well being.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 10 Transport and accessibility - STRAT 11 Infrastructure <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM37 – Recreational routeways - T5 – Parking and access
<p>CA2</p> <p>Cycle access and connectivity</p>	<p>Developments that implement the recommendations as set out in A Cycle Strategy for Frodsham will be supported.</p>	<p>Protect and improve air quality, by managing traffic impacts</p> <p>Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 10 Transport and accessibility - STRAT 11 Infrastructure - <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p>

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 Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
		<p>minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts</p> <p>Reduce the potential impacts of climate change by reducing the need to travel</p> <p>Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T5 – Parking and access - DM37 – Recreational routeways
<p>CA3 - Application of Section 106 and other funding agreements through development</p>	<p>Developments where S106 agreements assist the implementation of A Cycle Strategy for Frodsham and address pedestrian infrastructure deficiencies at specified locations will be supported.</p>	<p>Protect and improve air quality, by managing traffic impacts</p> <p>Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT11 - Infrastructure <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <p>T5 – Parking and access</p>

Appendix 2: SEA Screening – Assessment of significant environmental effects of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Directive	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 the Parish of Frodsham 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 Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan will not impact on the strategic location and distribution of new development over and above that set by the adopted Local Plan for the borough. The draft policies would however equate to an increase of 116 units / 27 % over the minimum housing figure set in the Local Plan. As such, it is considered to have a significant impact on the scale of housing development. It will provide local level guidance within the strategic framework on the nature of development in the Frodsham 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>Yes</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan has to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the</p>	<p>No</p>

SEA Directive	Characteristics of the plan	Significant environmental effect?
or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	adopted Local Plan and must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It will therefore have limited influence over changing the policies in plans at the higher strategic level or lead to the development of further plans below it.	
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, as one of the basic condition tests, to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. 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
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will operate within the framework of national planning policy and the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan. The Local Plan (Part One) and Local Plan (Part Two) were accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) which provides a comprehensive overview of the issues in Cheshire West and Chester. There are no specific additional environmental problems identified for the Frodsham neighbourhood area.</p> <p>Some of the environmental issues and problems identified in the neighbourhood plan for Frodsham include the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect the countryside including ancient woodland, field boundaries and dark skies 	No

SEA Directive	Characteristics of the plan	Significant environmental effect?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximise reuse of previously developed land to help prevent loss of greenfield land - Safeguard and enhance heritage assets and recreational facilities such as footpaths - Promote safe access for pedestrians and cyclists to all parts of the parish <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to address these issues.</p>	
<p>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)</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Development Plan will have no direct role in the delivery of community legislation on the environment. It does not 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.</p>	<p>No</p>

Appendix 3: SEA Screening – Characteristics of the plan’s effects and of the area likely to be affected

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 ¹	(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 (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Protect and improve air quality, by managing traffic impacts	Low infrequent probability, reducing the impact of traffic. Effects Medium and Long term.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	Yes - See HRA Screening	Yes
Effect on population and health – promoting safe environments and minimising adverse impacts on quality of life arising from traffic impacts	Low infrequent probability, reducing the impact of traffic. Effects Medium and Long term.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None – policy aims to protect and enhance heritage and landscape.	None	None	None identified	No
Reduce the potential impacts of climate change by reducing the need to travel	Low infrequent probability, reducing the impact of traffic. Long term.	None	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No
Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna Enhancement and creation of habitats, including trees/woodlands	High probability, as applications come forward. Policies support development which complement green infrastructure, biodiversity and link to the open countryside. Effects short, medium and long term.	Potential small scale negative cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	Yes – see HRA Screening	Yes
Protect cultural heritage and landscape	High probability as applications come forward. Effects short, medium and long term.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None – policy aims to protect and enhance heritage and landscape.	None	None	None identified	No

¹ 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 ¹	(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 (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Protect water quality	Low infrequent probability, related to specific applications. Impacts medium and long term	Potential small scale negative cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	Potential small scale negative impact	None	Yes – see HRA screening	Yes
Population and health – supports access to local opportunities for employment	High probability – policy supports local employment opportunities. Effects short, medium term and potentially long term	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No
Reduce the potential impacts of climate change through promoting renewable energy	Low infrequent probability, related to specific applications. Impacts medium and long term	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No
Population and human health – supports social inclusion and access to community facilities and services	Dependant on the scale and nature of development proposed. The NDP provides a positive framework to support facilities, but does not allocate specific sites/schemes.	Dependant on the nature and location of development.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	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 ¹	(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 (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Population and human health - Supports housing development	High probability. Effects would be short, medium and long term through the plan period. The draft NDP proposes an increase in the overall level of development established through Local Plan (Part One) STRAT8/STRAT9 and Local Plan (Part Two) through the allocation of 9 housing sites. This is likely to result in a significant increase in housing above existing levels, which could result in a significant effect.	Dependant on the nature and location of development. The draft NDP proposes a slight increase in the overall level of development established through Local plan (Part One) STRAT8/STRAT9 and Local Plan (Part Two). This could result in a cumulative impact of new housing development in the countryside.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	Dependant on the location and scale of development. Likely to be an effect.	None	None	Yes – See HRA Screening	Yes
Population and health –protection of residential amenity can have a positive effect on health and well being	High probability as development takes place. Short, medium and long term positive effects for residents.	None	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No
Population and health – access to countryside promotes health and well being	Medium probability, short, medium and long term through the plan period. Potential for positive effects at the neighbourhood scale.	Potential for small scale positive effects.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	No
Effect on land and resources (Soil) from new development	Medium probability, depending on scale and type of employment development proposed. Potential for long term permanent effects, although likely to be small scale.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects, depending on nature and location of development proposed.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None identified	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 ¹	(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 (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	(ii) effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	(iii) effect on intensity of land-use	(g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic)	Medium probability, depending on scale and type of employment development proposed. Potential for long term permanent effects, although likely to be small scale.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects, depending on nature and location of development proposed.	None	None	Local, small scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	None	None	None	No

Appendix 4 – SEA Screening - European sites relevant to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

European site	Reason for inclusion	Reason for designation	Existing pressures and potential impacts	Relevance to the Neighbourhood Area
Oak Mere SAC	Located within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Frodsham NA	Water body with clear water of low nutrient status characteristics of oligotrophic waters and a marginal zone of shoreweed (<i>Littorella uniflora</i>). Site supports an assemblage of plants that are rare in the lowlands of England, including bog moss (<i>Sphagnum</i> spp) and the scarce narrow small-reed (<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>).	Water pollution / enrichment. Hydrological changes - reduction in size of the mere due to natural lowering of the local water table caused by successive droughts, resulting in threat to shoreline communities from desiccation and invasion by birch and willow. Atmospheric pollution from nearby roads.	The site falls within the 15km radius of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan. The pressures and potential impacts to consider in the screening are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution - Atmospheric pollution.
Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site Phase 2	Located within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Frodsham NA	Series of open water and peatland sites supporting a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog. This includes natural dystrophic lakes and ponds and transition mires and quaking bogs with floating bog moss. Site supports a number of rare plant species associated with wetlands and an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates.	Water pollution / enrichment. Hydrological changes. Despite number of visitors to some of the meres and mosses, interest features are resilient to recreational pressure and off-track trampling is not a significant issue due to the hazardous nature of the sites away from designated tracks and	The site falls within the 15km radius of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan. The pressures and potential impacts to consider in the screening are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution

European site	Reason for inclusion	Reason for designation	Existing pressures and potential impacts	Relevance to the Neighbourhood Area
West Midlands Mosses SAC	Located partly within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Frodsham NA		boardwalks. Due to distance to major roads, changes in local air quality are not an issue requiring investigation.	The site falls within the 15km radius of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan. The pressures and potential impacts to consider in the screening are: - Water pollution
Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar	Located partially within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of Frodsham NA	Designated for over-wintering and on passage birds. Over winter – Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>), Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>), Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>). On passage – Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>). It also contains internationally important populations of Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>), Redshank	- Recreational disturbance from abrasion (boating, anchoring, trampling). - Selective extraction of species (harvesting, bait digging, recreational fishing) - Visual presence of recreational activity. - Disturbance to birds from increased recreational pressure and wildfowling. - Coastal squeeze and loss of supporting habitat. - Deterioration in water quality. - Deterioration in air quality. - Introduction of non-	The site falls within the 15km radius of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Area and within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The pressures and potential impacts to consider in the screening are: - Water pollution - Atmospheric pollution. - Recreational disturbance

European site	Reason for inclusion	Reason for designation	Existing pressures and potential impacts	Relevance to the Neighbourhood Area
		<p>(Tringa tetanus), Eurasian teal (Anas crecca), Pintail (Anas acuta) and Dunlin (Calidris alpina alpina). It also has a 5 year peak mean (1998/99-2002/3) of 89,576 waterfowl.</p>	<p>native species.</p> <p>Due to the scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered relevant to the HRA Screening of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan. Potential impacts are identified in terms of visual presence of recreational activity, disturbance to birds, deterioration in water quality and deterioration in air quality. The Mersey Estuary is separated from Frodsham by the M53, Frodsham Marshes and the Manchester Ship canal and as such, direct impacts are unlikely, however there may be impacts on Frodsham Marshes, which are considered to be functionally linked land.</p>	
River Dee and Bala Lake SPA	Located partly within Cheshire West and Chester and within 15km of the	<p>The site contains the following Annex 1 habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Renunculon fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation <p>The site contains the following</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational activities, specifically fishing. - Risk of excessive abstraction resulting in a decrease in freshwater flows and an increase in sediment loading of water such that 	The site falls within the 15km radius of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Area. However, it does not fall within the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies of the plan.

European site	Reason for inclusion	Reason for designation	Existing pressures and potential impacts	Relevance to the Neighbourhood Area
	<p>Frodsham NA. Identified as a source of potable water for Cheshire West and Chester and also the receiving watercourse for waste water treatment works discharge</p>	<p>Annex II species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) - Floating water-plaintain (<i>Luronium natans</i>) - Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) - Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) - Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>) - Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) 	<p>dehydration of interest features may occur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish entrainment associated with abstraction. - Deterioration in water quality and changes in flow rates dues to ex-industrial runoff, discharge of treated sewage effluent and agricultural runoff. - Introduction of invasive species. <p>Due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered relevant to the HRA Screening of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>The pressures and potential impacts to consider in the screening are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution - Atmospheric pollution.

Appendix 5: HRA Screening of Neighbourhood Plan policies for Likely Significant Effect

The pressures and issues to consider, as identified in Appendix 4, are Likely Significant Effects on water pollution and atmospheric pollution, recreational disturbance and water quality (Oak Mere SAC, Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site Phase 2 and West Midlands Mosses SAC) Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar and River Dee and Bala Lake SPA

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
H1 Location of housing development Includes housing allocations.	<p>Supports residential development where they are on brownfield sites, identified in the Masterplan document, provide dwellings within the settlement boundary, supports active travel are within 800m of the junction of Church St and Main Street and create opportunities for Self-Build.</p> <p>Nine residential allocations are identified.</p>	<p>Yes – link and pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality and atmospheric (air) pollution specifically with the Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar.</p> <p>Potential impacts in terms of visual presence of recreational activity, disturbance to birds, deterioration in water quality and deterioration in air quality. The Mersey Estuary is separated from Frodsham by the M53, Frodsham Marshes and the Manchester Ship canal and as such, direct impacts are unlikely. However, there may be impacts on Frodsham Marshes, which are considered to be functionally linked land.</p>	Yes
H2 Housing layout and design	<p>Sets out principles of design including respecting views and vistas, complementing the area's green infrastructure, biodiversity and links to open countryside, retaining mature trees should be retained where possible and developments adjacent to main roads should provide a green buffer to reduce pollution.</p>	<p>No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE</p>	No
H3	<p>New housing should provide a mix of house types, tenures, and sizes taking account of</p>	<p>No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water</p>	No

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
Housing mix and type	the needs in the area Developments should provide appropriate communal spaces including play and leisure areas.	quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	
H4 Affordable housing	Sets a requirement that on sites that have a capacity of three or more dwellings or comprise an area of 0.1 hectares 30% must be Affordable Housing. Affordable Housing should be provided in Perpetuity and for those with a local connection to Frodsham.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
H5 Design and character	New residential development will be required to consider the design principles and detailed guidance contained within the Frodsham Design Codes report and the Frodsham Town Design Statement.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
H6 Heritage assets	New developments must take account of the desirability of preserving or enhancing designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings or any features of special architectural or historic interest	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
EDVE1 Business and employment	Supports the development of new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses in Frodsham subject to principles of local character and residential amenity and	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
	impacts on highway safety.		
ECVE2 Tourism and the visitor economy	Supports proposals that enhance and improve existing tourist attractions and facilities or that create new tourism opportunities.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
EDVE3 Retail and services	Proposals for new retail (particularly for independent retailers) service and leisure facilities will be supported subject to a number of criteria. Developments should also be located within the defined shopping area and proposals should be of a scale and design which are sympathetic to the distinctive character of the historic core	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
GSRL1 Protecting our Green Spaces	Priority will be given to developments that: retain, preserve, maintain, protect and provide additional or new Green Spaces for communal and social use.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
GSRL2 Developing existing and new activities	Encourages developments that maximises opportunities for activities enhancing recreation, sport, leisure and mental well-being.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
GSRL3	Supports developments that retains, maintains and protects existing green and	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water	No

Policy	Neighbourhood Plan policy summary	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
Maintaining our Green Spaces	open spaces for communal and social use.	quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	
GSRL4 Creating new Green Spaces	Encourages developments that create or develop additional green community/recreational spaces.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
CA1 Infrastructure with development	Developments will be supported where they provide access roads within development, footway connections, conformity of supporting infrastructure, ease of access of footways and electric vehicle charge points.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
CA2 Cycle access and connectivity	Developments that implement the recommendations as set out in A Cycle Strategy for Frodsham will be supported.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No
CA3 - Application of Section 106 and other funding agreements through development	Developments where S106 agreements assist the implementation of A Cycle Strategy for Frodsham and address pedestrian infrastructure deficiencies at specified locations will be supported.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No

Appendix 6

Comments received during consultation on Draft SEA Screening Opinion Draft Frodsham NP (February 2021)

Statutory consultee	Date Consulted	Response
Environment Agency	21/01/21	<p><u>4th March 2021</u></p> <p>Dear Madam</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion for Draft Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Thank you for submitting the above SEA, SA and HRA screening opinion request for the Draft Frodsham Neighborhood Plan. This referral was received on the 21st January 2021.</p> <p>We have reviewed the following submitted documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion for Draft Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan, Prepared on behalf of Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group by Cheshire West and Chester Council dated January 2021. <p>Environment Agency Position</p> <p>We note and acknowledge the Councils screening decision that a SEA and HRA are required and have no further comments to make.</p>
Natural England	21/01/21	<p><u>8th February 2021</u></p> <p>Natural England agree with the Screening opinion that an SEA and HRA are</p>

Statutory consultee	Date Consulted	Response
		required for Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan.
Historic England	21/01/21	<p><u>4th February 2021</u></p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion for the draft Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan dated January 2021</p> <p>We write in response to your e-mail of 21 January 2021, seeking a formal Screening Opinion from Historic England as to whether SEA is required for the draft Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan. As the public body that advises on England’s historic environment, we are pleased to offer our comments. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine the advice given to the question, “Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?”, in respect to our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied at this time within the Screening Report.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan area includes a number of designated heritage assets including listed buildings, conservation areas, a scheduled monument and registered park and garden. There are also likely to be other features of local historic, architectural or archaeological value and consideration should also be given to the wider historic landscape. In the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 [Annex II of SEA Directive], Historic England notes the allocation of sites for housing development beyond the Local Plan requirements for Frodsham, and concur with your conclusion that “it is likely there will be significant environmental effects arising from the Draft Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan”. We therefore agree that Strategic Environmental Assessment of Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan is required.</p>

Statutory consultee	Date Consulted	Response
		<p>We would like to stress that this opinion is based on the information made available. To avoid any doubt, this decision does not preclude Historic England providing further advice on later stages of the SEA process, should this be required, nor objecting to specific proposals that may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan/guidance), where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the environment. The views of all statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for SEA is made.</p> <p>Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the Cheshire West & Chester Council and the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on: local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR); how policies or proposals can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of historic assets.</p> <p>We request that you please send Historic England a copy of the determination as required by Reg 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.</p>