

TIBBERTON AND CHERRINGTON
PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
2020-2031

STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT
SCREENING STATEMENT

Tibberton and Cherrington
Parish Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement for the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan (TCNP)

Screening Statement under regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004
on the determination of the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
for the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan (TCNP)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Government has confirmed that sustainability appraisals are only required for development plan documents and do not apply in the case of neighbourhood plans although the qualifying body must demonstrate how its neighbourhood plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development. However, neighbourhood plans must not breach and must be otherwise compatible with EU and Human Rights obligations. Neighbourhood plans therefore need to be considered against, for example, the Habitats and Strategic Assessment Directives and associated regulations. Whilst it is not the case that every neighbourhood plan will need an environmental assessment of the type normally associated with the process of preparing Local Plans, they may, subject to their scope and the issues they are seeking to address, be required to produce an environmental assessment if the plan is determined as likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) are required by EU Directive 2001/42/EC, to assess the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. This Directive was implemented in the United Kingdom in July 2004 with the adoption of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). The requirement for SEA is assessed under Regulation 9 (1). The SEA focuses on impacts on the natural environment with some limited consideration of human population needs and material assets. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) itself should, among other things, consider options, quantify potential impacts and offer advice on alternatives, or mitigating measures, where impacts are likely.
- 1.3 Regulation 8 of the SEA Regulations prevents the adoption or submission of a plan for which an environmental assessment is required before the SEA is completed and prohibits the adoption or submission of a plan before the responsible authority has determined whether the plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment.
- 1.4 It is not possible to rule out the need for an SEA without first carrying out a screening process to establish whether or not the TCNP is likely to have significant environmental effects (Article 3(1)). Under Article 3(4) of the Directive, and Regulation 5 of the Regulations, the responsible authority must determine which plans, other than those for which an SEA is automatically required, are likely to have significant environmental effects. The “responsible authority” as defined by Regulation 2, is the authority on whose behalf a plan is prepared.
- 1.5 Both the Directive (in Annex II), and the Regulations (in Schedule 1), set out specific criteria for determining the likely significance of the environmental effects of a plan. The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. These criteria include specific considerations regarding the characteristics of the plan, the effects of the plan, and the area likely to be effected by the plan.
- 1.6 A determination cannot be made until the three statutory consultation bodies have been consulted: the Environment Agency; Natural England; and Historic England.
- 1.7 Within 28 days of making its determination, the Council must publish a statement setting out its decision. If it determines that an SEA is not required, the statement must include reasons for this.

2.0 Neighbourhood Plans

- 2.1 Neighbourhood planning is a community right introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Take up of the new right will be voluntary and at the discretion of neighbourhoods and communities.
- 2.2 The Government published a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework in 2019, replacing almost all existing planning guidance. This is what it says on neighbourhood planning:

29. Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies¹.

30. Once a neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan covering the neighbourhood area, where they are in conflict; unless they are superseded by strategic or non-strategic policies that are adopted subsequently

- 2.3 The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (SI 637) came into force on 6 April 2012 and have since been amended most recently through the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 which became effective on 1st October 2016 (SI 934). This sets out the procedures for designating a Neighbourhood Plan area and getting the Plan adopted through the planning system

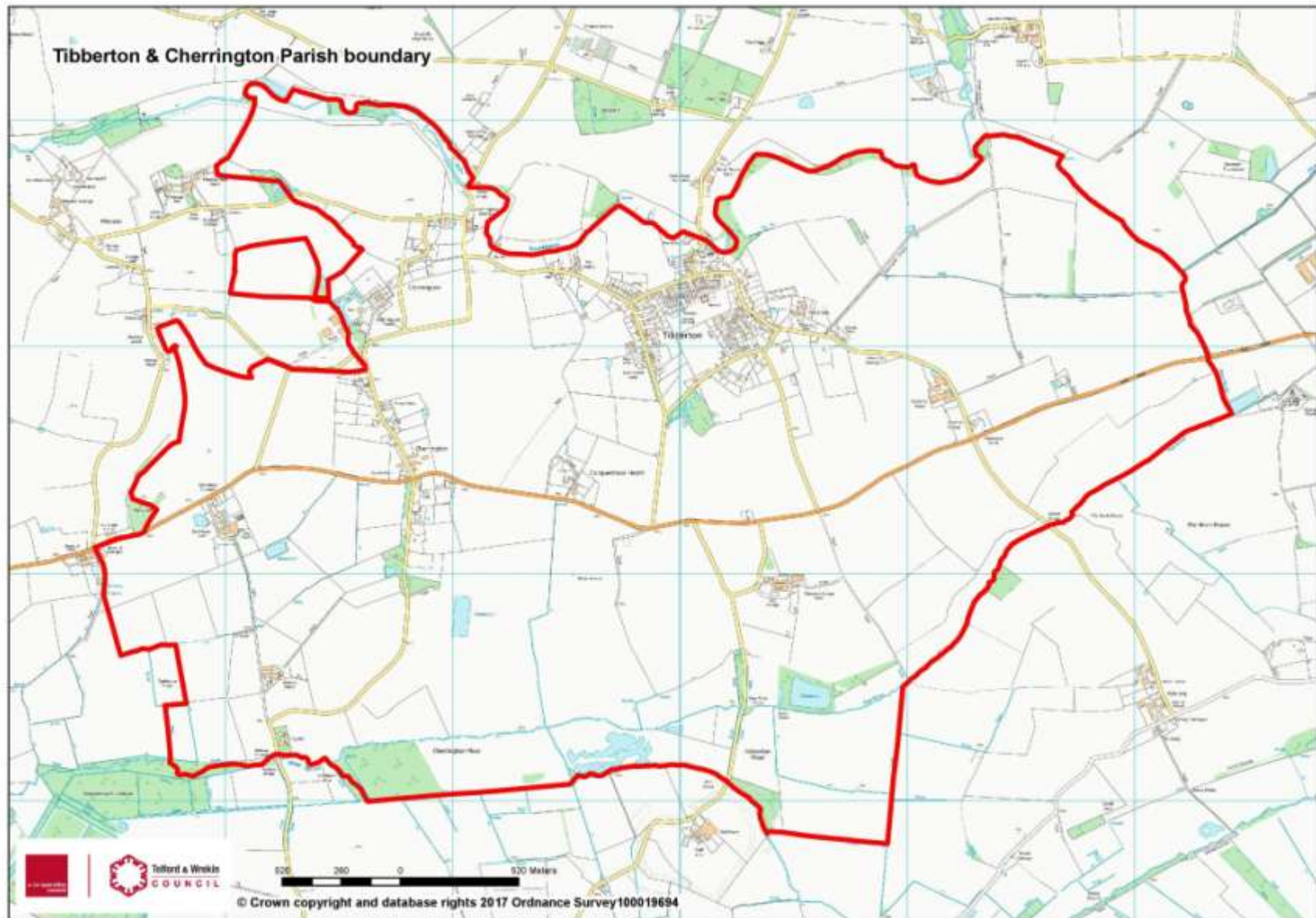
3.0 Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1. The TCNP must conform to higher level policy. This means that it must conform to national and local policy including Telford & Wrekin Council's strategic planning policy, which is contained in the adopted Telford & Wrekin Local Plan 2011 - 2031. The previous Wrekin Local Plan (1995-2006) is now time expired and the existing Core Strategy policies have been superseded by the adopted Telford & Wrekin Local Plan.
- 3.2 A revision to the Local Plan was submitted on 30th June 2016 and an examination in public was conducted during January and February 2017 by an independent Planning Inspector. Telford & Wrekin Council received the Inspector's Report in November 2017 and adopted the Local Plan in 2018. Additionally, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 places an obligation on Councils to review Local Plans within a five year period from the date of adoption. The purpose of a review is to take account of "changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy²". A review, therefore, needs to be completed by January 2023. Given these circumstances and opportunities, Telford and Wrekin Council decided in December 2019 that a review of the Local Plan be launched. This review would not be housing numbers driven but seek to embed key priorities for the Council and Borough.
- 3.3 Tibberton and Cherrington Parish Council submitted its application to Telford & Wrekin Council for designation of its Neighbourhood Area in October 2018. After a formal six week consultation Telford & Wrekin Council Cabinet resolved to support the Neighbourhood Area application made by Tibberton and Cherrington Parish Council and that the area shown in the application should be designated as a Neighbourhood Area (see map below that shows the designated boundary). A formal notice was published on 24 January 2019 that confirmed the designation.

¹ Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area.

² Paragraph 33, National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Tibberton and Cherrington Parish Boundary and designated Neighbourhood Plan Area



3.4. The Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan is based around four key themes that were identified as a result of the 2017 public meeting and these formed the basis for further public consultation at the January 2020 consultation sessions:

- Community Amenities
- Rural Character and Housing
- Environment, Open Spaces and Recreation
- Highways and Byways

3.5 These themes and the related issues have informed the preparation of 14 planning objectives that in turn led to the development of draft planning policies. It is possible that these objectives and policies may be refined as the draft plan is considered at the formal consultation stages.

3.6 Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives

VISION

To help shape the future of Tibberton and Cherrington Parish up to 2031

by enabling the community to have a positive involvement in where and how development should take place; working to retain and enhance the Parish's open rural character and historic identity; and by contributing to maintaining the Parish as an attractive, safe and neighbourly place to live, work and visit.

OBJECTIVES

Community Amenities

1. To protect existing facilities and services considered important for a vibrant community and support the development of new ones which will benefit the community.
2. To increase opportunities to access community facilities and to enhance the range of activities and facilities available for all.
3. To encourage suitable employment opportunities and communications connectivity (broadband and mobile 'phone).

Rural Character and Housing

4. To allow future infill development of a scale and type in keeping with the rural character and identity of the Parish.
5. To protect the character and setting of the Parish's historic housing and ensure new development is in keeping with other buildings, with a particular focus on the 'Duke of Sutherland' style of housing.
6. To support the provision of a range of house types and tenures on appropriate sites within Tibberton and Cherrington villages and the wider Parish.
7. To maintain the rural nature of the Parish by discouraging developments with street lights or excessive external lighting, thereby retaining the Parish's 'dark sky' lighting policy.

Environment, Open Spaces and Recreation

8. To conserve and enhance local open spaces by protecting and enhancing existing green spaces and recreational areas of value to the community whilst ensuring the Parish retains its rural character.
9. To protect and enhance green areas, natural habitat, wildlife and biodiversity in and around the Parish; to encourage appropriate management and limit pollution and damage to the environment.

10. To protect and enhance features of significant nature conservation or landscape value.

Highways and Byways

11. To work to improve public transport options.
 12. To encourage the provision of alternative, safe and convenient means of travel within the Parish so as to minimise the use of cars and reduce the associated problems of noise, pollution and parking.
 13. To provide a safe, accessible and well-maintained network of roads, cycle routes, footpaths, rights of way and pavements whilst retaining a rural character to support a more sustainable environment, reduce reliance on the car and offer healthier lifestyle options.
 14. To improve safety by reducing vehicle speed and limiting access by heavy goods vehicles.
- 3.7 Other important considerations will include the provision of Development Management policies for the Borough Council's planning service. For example, policies might cover the preservation and enhancement of local character and distinctiveness including historic assets.
- 3.8 **Monitoring and Review:** Tibberton and Cherrington Parish Council will monitor the delivery of its policies and work to ensure that benefits to the communities within the Parish are achieved.

4.0 Assessment of Requirement for SEA

- 4.1 The Government has set down planning guidance following publication of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). The guidance advises that 'To decide whether a draft neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, it must be assessed (screened) at an early stage of the plan's preparation according to the requirements set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These include a requirement to consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies. Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared.'
- 4.2 In principle, neighbourhood plans should not be subject to the SEA Directive or require sustainability appraisal because they do not normally introduce new policies or proposals or modify planning documents which have already been subject to sustainability appraisal. However, they might occasionally be found likely to give rise to significant effects that have not been previously assessed. In screening a plan, Article 3 (6) of the SEA Directive requires that the relevant bodies concerned with environmental matters, as defined by individual Member states, shall be consulted as part of the screening process. In the case of the UK, the statutory environmental consultees are: Natural England; the Environment Agency; and Historic England.
- 4.3 It is considered that the screening methodology should address the issues identified in the table below.

Screening Stage	Purpose
Assessing TCNP against Annex II criteria	To establish whether or not the TCNP is likely to have a significant effect on the Annex II criteria. This will take account of the role of the TCNP in relation to existing policy context
Conclusion on whether the screening exercise identifies a need for SEA	To set out conclusions from the screening exercise
Recommendations for how the TCNP should proceed in relation to SEA requirements	To set out the broad approach needed to carry out an SEA on the TCNP or, where the screening report suggests no TCNP is required, to determine the parameters within which the TCNP will need to operate to avoid triggering a need for SEA.

Assessing the TCNP against Annex II Criteria

Annex II of the SEA Directive sets out the criteria for determining if there are likely to be significant effects resulting from the implementation of a plan.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant environmental effects	Summary of significant effects
1a) 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.	No	<p>The Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan (TCNP) proposes a framework for development proposals focussed upon a limited amount of housing, landscape quality and local character, employment, and community infrastructure.</p> <p>Telford & Wrekin Local Plan policies SP3 and HO10 supports new development where it meets the needs of rural communities and seeks to direct a limited amount of new housing development in Tibberton to infill sites only. In Cherrington and outside the built-up areas of Tibberton the exceptions sites policy would apply as per Policy HO11.</p> <p>Telford and Wrekin Local Plan Technical Paper - Rural Settlements (B2f) identifies Tibberton as a location for sustainable development within the rural area.</p>
1(b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.	No	<p>The TCNP responds to other plans and programmes such as the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan and the NPPF. The TCNP has been specifically guided by and is aligned with the aims and objectives of the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan and is likely to have a positive impact on these plans through its policies to deliver sustainable development and protect and enhance the local environment.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant environmental effects	Summary of significant effects
<p>1(c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The TCNP recognises the objective of achieving sustainable development in the local area.</p> <p>The TCNP contains policies that seek to protect and retain local valuable green space, public rights of way, provide new homes and help to promote and support existing services and facilities.</p> <p>The TCNP seeks to promote and support existing services and facilities and to improve opportunities for alternative sustainable means of travel.</p> <p>The limited amount of infill housing site will help to address rural housing needs, and the policies within the TCNP encourage provision of a more balanced range of housing (size, type and affordability) as supported by local residents together with the re-use of existing buildings for business use.</p> <p>Proposals set out the TCNP are designed to have a positive impact on local environmental assets and places valued by local people in the TCNP area. They will primarily focus on the protection and enhancement of green spaces and historic buildings.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant environmental effects	Summary of significant effects
1(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan	No	<p>There are no major allocations identified for housing or employment within the TCNP area.</p> <p>TCNP policies CA1, RCH4 and HB1 support the provision of and improvements to pedestrian and cycle way routes through new planning. It also seeks to provide a safe, accessible and well maintained network of roads, pavements, and rights of way whilst retaining a rural character to support a more sustainable environment, reduce reliance on the car and offer healthier lifestyle options. Proposals that exceed the parking standards in Appendix F of the Local Plan will be supported.</p> <p>Environmental issues may be triggered through the development of suitable infill housing sites. However, these sites will need to be in conformity with both national and local policy and, in particular, both the Local Plan and TCNP which seek to prevent environmental harm and promote and improve environmental quality.</p> <p>There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the TCNP area.</p>
1(e) 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)	No	<p>The TCNP policies do not propose any changes that are likely to have a severe impact on the environment i.e. tree preservation orders or existing public rights of way. The Local Plan chapter on the Natural Environment contains positive enabling policies (NE1-NE7) and the TCNP has adopted a similar approach that is intended to have a positive effect.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant environmental effects	Summary of significant effects
2(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	Due to the limited scale of any new development, it is unlikely that the TCNP would result in any irreversible damaging environmental impacts. All new development should be sustainable and be in accordance with existing planning policy.
2(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	No	<p>It is not possible to fully assess the cumulative effects of future development until planning applications have been submitted and assessed for the allocated sites. However, it is anticipated that forthcoming issues could include the effect on school capacity, highway safety and the loss and movement of jobs. It may be possible to address some or all of these cumulative issues through mitigation measures, financial contributions, and in the detailed part of the planning application process. Further to this it is thought the policies within the TCNP will generate positive effects.</p> <p>Application of the policies contained in the TCNP attempt to prevent detrimental cumulative effects by assuring that new development will address environmental, social and economic issues created by each development.</p>
2(c) The transboundary nature of the effects	No	The infill housing and small scale employment proposals of the TCNP are unlikely to generate any significant cross-boundary effects. Improvements to more sustainable transport modes and linkages, including cycling, walking should help to minimise any trans boundary effects.
2(d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	No	<p>It is unlikely that there will be any obvious risks to human health arising from the policies within the TCNP.</p> <p>Health and Safety standards on developments arising within the plan area will be controlled/ governed by relevant statutory guidelines and codes. Any risks arising from the policies and proposals in the TCNP will be managed in accordance with the relevant statutory frameworks; however no details have been submitted or are shown within the plan.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant environmental effects	Summary of significant effects
2(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	<p>The River Meese runs along the northern border of the Parish and the River Strine and Strine Brook runs through the southern border of the parish; however they should not pose any development constraints by reason of their location and distance from any likely infill development sites. The area is characterised by rural countryside, listed buildings and areas of green space. The policies contained in the TCNP seek to protect and enhance open space, retain historical character, protect amenities and services whilst trying to provide a mix of new homes for existing needs.</p> <p>The plan will have some effect on the local population.</p>
2(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards (iii) intensive land-use 	No	<p>The TCNP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its natural or cultural heritage. If anything it will provide greater support to enhance the setting of heritage assets and of green spaces.</p> <p>Where possible, policies will encourage new opportunities for recreation, access and leisure.</p> <p>The TCNP policies will aim to preserve, enhance and improve all known sites of ecological or environmental importance, as well as designating new sites that are identified in the future which are currently unprotected.</p> <p>The policies contained in the TCNP aim to preserve, enhance and improve sites and corridors of ecological or environmental importance, as well as designating Local Green Space alongside policies which seek to protect local characteristic features (CA1, RCH1, RCH2, RCH3, RCH4, EOR1 and EOR2). These are in accordance with policies in the Local Plan dealing with the Natural Environment (chapter 6), the Built Environment and Heritage (chapter 9) and Environmental Resources (chapter 10).</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likely to have significant environmental effects	Summary of significant effects
2 (g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	No	<p>It is considered that the TCNP is unlikely to have an adverse impact on its existing landscapes. Whilst there are areas of grade 2, 3 and 4 agricultural land within the parish the plan does not propose any new development on the best and most versatile land.</p> <p>A statement on Habitats Regulations Assessment has been prepared identifying whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</p> <p>The plan proposes to protect and enhance wildlife corridors and green spaces through policies RCH1, RCH4, EOR1 and EOR2 which are likely to have beneficial impacts.</p>

5.0 Conclusion of the SEA Screening process for the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 The policies within the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan have been screened under the Strategic Environment Assessment process.
- 5.2 The conclusion of the SEA Screening Process is that none of the proposed policies within the draft Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to have a significant effect on the natural environment.
- 5.3 The draft Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan can be ‘screened out’ of the Strategic Environment Assessment process and an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is not required.