

Environmental Assessment Statement

Title:	16-010 Thrussington Neighbourhood Plan Submission Package
Date:	6 th December 2017
Purpose:	To set out how the Plan meets the requirement of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Context

- 1.1. This statement is designed to set out how the Thrussington Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The regulations require any plan or policy to determine whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects, and as necessary mitigate for or avoid, these effects.
- 1.2. Regulation 9(1) requires the responsible authority - in this case the Parish Council who have taken on the role of the Neighbourhood Forum, through a Working Group, as described under regulation 8 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 - to determine whether the plan or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.3. On behalf of the Parish Council, the consultants prepared and consulted upon a screening and scoping opinion in regard of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.4. Regulation 6 of the Environmental Assessments Regulations (2014), states that an environmental assessment needs to be carried out for a plan or programme if it is determined under regulation 9(1) that the plan or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.5. Thrussington is not allocated any new homes in the parish over the plan period of the Charnwood Local Plan (2011-2028). Housing policies within the plan specifically refer to Infill development (H1) and Housing Mix (H2).

Screening and Scoping

- 1.6. A screening report was issued in August 2017 by the Local Planning Authority who concluded that the neighbourhood plan would not require an SEA.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.7. Work on the sustainability appraisal (SA) began in 2016 and ran through the various elements of the Plan during that year and 2017 with the final elements and write up conducted in late 2017, prior to final approval of the Plan by the parish council. A copy of the full SA is contained within the submission package alongside the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.8. Each of the policies in the plan were assessed against a series of sustainability objectives. These sustainability objectives had been developed from those used in the Charnwood's Revised Sustainability Appraisal (2015), which specifies 17 sustainability objectives, covering key sustainability themes.
- 1.9. Suggested possible changes were then identified and where possible these have been incorporated into the final plan.

Conclusions

- 1.10. In reaching this determination, the following key issues have been considered:
- a. An SEA screening opinion based on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (prepared in accordance with regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012) confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan would not have significant environmental effects
 - b. All policies of the Neighbourhood Plan have been tested against sustainability objectives as part of the Sustainability Appraisal submitted with this Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.11. This statement is considered to satisfy the requirements of Regulation 9(3) and states the reasons for this determination.