

Environmental Assessment Statement

Project: 20-025 Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan
Date: June 2023
Purpose: To set out how the Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Context

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

The Screening Report

5. Rushcliffe Borough Council undertook Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Screening on the Tollerton Neighbourhood Plan in May 2023. On the basis of the screening report and consultation with Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency it is considered that significant effects are unlikely and that the neighbourhood plan does not require a full SEA. The policies proposed would have neutral and positive impacts on the environment. No negative effects are identified.



Conclusions

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

