

**Thornton Area Neighbourhood Plan –
Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic
Environmental Assessment Screening (at
December 2017)**



Introduction

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 (section 19) requires a qualifying body preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to demonstrate how its plan will contribute toward sustainable development. This report refers to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to the new Hull Local Plan that takes into account sustainability objectives for the city, of which Thornton forms part.

The effects of the policies and allocations as part of the Local Plan have already largely been determined. This report makes reference to these but in a way that combines draft policies of the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan, May 2017. Impacts also take into account the Habitat Regulations Assessment which incorporates an Appropriate Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010. The SA also incorporates the requirements of a Health Impact Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment, to ensure that the Local Plan has a positive effect on the health and equal opportunities for all residents in Hull.

A further requirement of the Environmental Assessment and Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004 is to determine whether a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have 'significant environmental effects'. Planning Practice Guidance (paragraph 27) advises that a screening determination can be undertaken, prior to providing a more detailed assessment, should there be significant effects. A statement of reasons for such a determination under Regulation 9 (1) is required. This report provides further details concerning the screening subject to consultation with the appropriate bodies.

Methodology

Specific parts of the SA of relevance to Thornton are referred to in the Local Plan. These include:

- a housing allocation made on Walker Street referenced in the Local Plan Policy 3;
- neighbourhood centre designations referenced under Policy 12;
- urban greenspace designations referenced under Policy 42;
- flood risk options referenced under Policy 37 and 39;
- air quality management options referenced under Policy 47; and
- environmentally sensitive locations including listed buildings or locally listed buildings within the plan area referenced under Policy 16 of the Local Plan along with important international/nationally important flora/fauna outside the plan area along the Humber estuary under Local Plan Policy 44.

Conclusions were drawn from these extracts of relevance to Thornton Neighbourhood Plan - Options proposals, consulted on in December 2016. Further potential economic, social or environmental impacts of the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan are also referred to, drawing on the draft plan consulted on over June/July 2017. Conclusions from the extracts and finer grain 'option' assessments were helpful in preparing the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan although the objective of this report is to determine whether a more detailed SA is needed.

SA references from the Hull Local Plan applicable to Thornton

The following relate to broad themed policies from the Local Plan in helping determine impacts along with the relevant proposals from the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan (TNP).

Housing allocations

Local Plan Policy 3: Housing requirement and site allocations including potential housing in relation to the Walker Street allocation referenced in the Thornton Neighbourhood along with Convent Lane site under Policy TNP1. Other residential allocations are referenced under TNP1 including possible use of 'gap sites' between the high rise blocks.

Environmental Objectives Summary (ranges from ? to -)

The delivery of new housing development is inevitably going to have environmental consequences. Building new homes on undeveloped or previously developed land could result in adverse impacts on any habitats and species present; increase surface water run-off by increasing levels of hard standing with associated impacts on water quality and flood risk; increase energy and water consumption; loss of soils; increased use of resources/waste generation; and depending on the site location, impacts on the character and setting of the surrounding environment. However overall, as a consequence of other policies set out within the Local Plan protecting against such impacts, the environmental effects of this policy are considered to be neutral, although this ranges from neutral and uncertain to minor negative effects before mitigation. The application of other plan policies should mitigate a number of minor negative effects to the extent that residual long term effects will be neutral, and with regards to protecting and enhancing habitats and biodiversity and reducing flood risk, there is even the potential for minor positive long term effects. In relation to the impact on climate change and the effects on water and natural resources there is the potential to neutralise the long term residual effects, although it remains possible that new housing development would leave a long term minor negative effect if the impacts cannot be fully mitigated.

Social Objectives Summary (ranges from ++ to 0)

The policy provides a balanced approach to housing delivery and is based upon evidence which identifies the level of need within the City, to ensure that the scale of future housing delivery is appropriate and sufficient to address existing deficiencies, whilst planning for growth, thereby enabling all communities to have better access to housing supply. This is the case for Thornton under Policy TNP 1 where provision of further housing will support long term sustainability of community facilities. Whilst the Local Plan policy does not deal directly with a number of the social objectives, indirectly it will deliver benefits in relation to many of the social objectives, particularly in relation to health, where increased housing availability to address identified need, should lead to general improvements in health and wellbeing in the longer term and the requirement for developer contributions may improve local facilities such as healthcare and open space. In addition, by supporting sustainable patterns of development, this should ensure that high levels of sustainable accessibility is achieved, which also contributes towards supporting healthier lifestyles particularly where

access to local services, facilities and amenities that are necessary to support sustainable communities can be delivered. The focus of community facilities around the Goodwin Parade in the Neighbourhood Plan supports these objectives. Whilst there are also indirect effects from increased housing delivery in terms of the potential for greater strain to be placed on the capacity of existing infrastructure, mitigation provided by other plan policies and a requirements for developers to contribute towards the cost of delivering infrastructure improvements neutralise long term residual effects and potentially result in positive effects through increased access.

Economic Objectives Summary (*ranges from ++ to +*)

The policy seeks to deliver housing growth to address existing and future needs, which is necessary to support the aspirations for sustainable economic growth based on realistic evidence lead requirements. It is considered that the policy will strengthen against this objective as more housing is delivered resulting in a very positive long term effect as housing needs and economic growth becomes more strongly aligned. In addition, the policy seeks to deliver new housing which when located within existing centres should complement existing uses and facilities providing a positive long term impact on the vitality and vibrancy of existing centres. Thornton provides an appropriate location to support further but limited housing numbers in meeting city wide objectively assessed needs. This provision will be of limited value in supporting local jobs and training opportunities, perhaps with potential within existing community facilities and business located within the Goodwin Centre and at the local business centre. The proximity of the Hull Royal Infirmary hospital provides further opportunities.

Housing regeneration

Policy 4: Housing regeneration and brownfield land including general unallocated brownfield sites within the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan area including the radburn layout housing under Policy TNP1.6.

Environmental Objectives Summary (*ranges from ++ to 0/-*)

Overall the policy supports the delivery of new housing on brownfield land which generally delivers a number of positive environmental effects. Maximising the area of brownfield land to be redeveloped provides a more efficient use of land and reduces the potential impacts on habitats and biodiversity and the loss of soils associated with undeveloped land and greenfield sites. Consequently, the scale and magnitude of these benefits increases as more housing development is delivered on brownfield land over the Plan period. This is the case for the area currently referenced in the TNP as 'radburn design' housing where there is potential to re-model this, subject to available funding and further dialogue with residents affected. Many of the uncertainties are as a consequence of the general overarching nature of the policy as the results vary depending on the precise location of new housing development, which are covered in a separate site assessment. Notwithstanding this, brownfield land does not fully preclude a site from having biodiversity interest and there is the potential that increasing the number of residential homes will increase water consumption and could increase flood risk and surface water run-off, although it is expected that other policies should ensure that such impacts are appropriately mitigated in the long

term and development proposals include or contribute towards the cost of delivering or maintaining supporting infrastructure, including flood defences and SUDS.

Social Objectives Summary (*ranges from + to 0*)

The policy and reference to TNP1.6 should indirectly have a positive social impact providing a realistic approach to brownfield land delivery and supporting the reuse of previously developed land which is predominantly located within the existing urban area, where there is better access to a range of more sustainable means of transport, employment opportunities and community services and facilities within walking distance. These positive effects should be maintained in the long term.

Economic Objectives Summary (+)

Overall the policy is likely to have a positive effect on supporting sustainable economic growth by supporting the retention of viable brownfield employment sites, which are essential to sustainable economic growth. It ensures that such sites are promoted for development / redevelopment and conversion for residential use, which could compromise this objective and supports bringing sites within existing centres back in to use, helping to revitalise existing centres and providing for a complementary mix of uses, which delivers vibrancy and helps to maintain the local community.

Shopping and service centres

Policy 12: District, Local and Neighbourhood Centres neighbourhood centre designations referenced under Policy 12 in the Local Plan including Goodwin Parade, itself referenced under Policy TNP2. Community assets under TNP3 are also of relevance.

Environmental Objectives Summary (*0 to ++*)

The policy is considered to have no direct relation to the environmental objectives and therefore is likely to have an overall neutral effect. TNP2 proposes significant environmental upgrading of the existing premises, subject to resources, so is considered has major environmental positives. Wholesale re-development is likely to result in environmental benefits compared to the existing building.

Social Objectives Summary (*ranges from ++ to +*)

The policy is likely to have a positive effect on many of the social objectives and a significant positive effect on the objective to deliver equitable and easy access to shopping, community and other services and facilities. TNP3 seeks to bolster the local provision of community facilities.

Economic Objective Summary (*ranges from + to ++*)

The policy will ensure that people will have a whole range of facilities and services within easy access, applicable to Thornton. It explicitly states that community facilities should be located in or adjacent to district, local or neighbourhood centres where they serve a

significant catchment and that community facilities. Part TNP2.6 references alternatives to retail provision that would counter social benefits for the whole of Thornton given the potential loss of the retail centre status although there would be considerable housing benefits as a consequence. TNP3.2 seeks to support the development of the Goodwin Local Centre is focusing further community investment in this location.

Heritage assets

Policy 16: Heritage assets including assets within the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan area referenced under Policy TNP8.

Environmental objectives summary (++)

The policy is expected to have a very positive long term effect on relevant environmental objectives. It includes provisions which will contribute towards the protection, conservation and enhancement of Hull's heritage assets, which also form a key element of the character of its cityscape, covering nationally and local designated features; key locations and buildings; and archaeological remains and deposits. These are of relevance to the Thornton Area where a number of assets exist as identified on the Policies Map.

Social Objectives Summary (+)

Whilst the majority of the social objectives have no direct relation to the policy, indirectly it performs positively against the objective to enhancing community identity and participation, by including provisions which will ensure that development contributes towards the protection, conservation and enhancement of Hull's heritage assets, which should consequently enhance the community's identity and sense of pride.

Economic Objectives Summary (0)

The policy is considered to have no direct relation to the economic objectives and therefore is likely to have an overall neutral effect.

Flood risks

Policy 37: Flood Defences including references to locations outside the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan area that will impact on local circumstances but also to Policy TNP6 consequences, designed to further support flood protection within the Thornton area.

Environmental Objectives Summary (*ranges from ++ to +*)

The policy should have a number of positive environmental effects by seeking to protect development and improve defences where needed. This could protect inland freshwater habitats that are near the water body and flooding which would have an adverse impact on the condition of the habitat. However, development and improved defences on the Humber Estuary could potentially detrimentally affect the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar due to coastal squeeze, potential fragmentation and disturbance. Flood defences, including the easement, can be designed in a way that allows for them to form part of the public realm.

This can bring wider benefits to an area by providing open spaces which can increase habitat provision.

The protection provided to development from flood defences and delivery of improved defences will deliver obvious significant effects in terms of reducing the risk of flooding, including for Thornton, and ensuring that development can withstand the effects of climate change, whilst also improving water quality and soil erosion which can be affected during significant flood events, particularly along river banks and coastlines. Further the policy should ensure the risk of flooding to cultural heritage assets in close proximity to water bodies is reduced, providing further positive effects for the landscape and townscape.

Social Objectives Summary (*ranges from ++ to +*)

The policy should provide a significant positive impact by reducing the health impacts caused by protecting existing defences from new development, supporting new defences that could provide protection to existing communities currently at risk of flooding and ensuring that new development incorporates proposals for flood defence provision or improvement to either mitigate its impact on existing defences or to provide protection to the occupiers of the development. In addition, flood defences, including the easement, can be designed in a way that allows for them to form part of the public realm. This can bring wider benefits to an area by providing open spaces and improved access. This will in turn have health benefits by encouraging walking, cycling and other outdoor activities.

Economic Objectives Summary (+)

The policy should provide positive economic effects by protecting existing defences from new development, supporting new defences that could provide protection to existing communities and businesses currently at risk of flooding and ensuring that new development incorporates proposals for flood defence provision or improvement to either mitigate its impact on existing defences or to provide protection to the occupiers of the development. The policy could allow sites to be brought forward for employment, that would not normally be permitted for development and ensure that the vibrancy and vitality of the City centre is not compromised by flood risk.

Sustainable drainage

Policy 39: Sustainable drainage requirements including within the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan area and specific references to retro-fitting where this is appropriate under TNP6.3.

Environmental Objectives Summary (*ranges from ++ to +*)

The policy should have a positive effect on many environmental objectives, with a significant positive effect in relation to minimising flood risk. The policy includes a requirement for development proposals to incorporate SuDS unless it can be demonstrated as being unfeasible. In addition to reducing the risk of surface water flooding, which has a negative impact on water quality during a flood event, it creates an opportunity for habitats to be used for water storage and flood prevention and could therefore contribute towards

improving habitats for local wildlife. SuDS techniques will help mitigate the risk from flooding as well as offer opportunities to reduce the anthropogenic cause of flooding, such as impermeable surfaces and provides an opportunity to reduce the risk of surface water flooding taking into account rising sea levels as a result of climate change. It also provides an opportunity to promote the efficient and re-use of water, such as including a Grey Water Recycling Tank/rainwater harvesting tank. Indirectly it should have further positive effects by reducing the risk of surface water flooding which could affect cultural heritage assets in close proximity to water bodies and public amenities, conservation areas, which are part of a townscape, in close proximity to water bodies.

Social Objectives Summary (+)

The policy supports schemes for water storage which will improve the flood resilience of the City and therefore the health and safety of its residents. It should therefore have a positive effect.

Economic Objectives Summary (+)

The policy could have an indirect positive effect by supporting schemes for water storage which will improve the flood resilience of the City. This could help to protect existing businesses and allow sites to be brought forward for employment, that wouldn't normally be permitted for development and could contribute towards enhancing the vibrancy and vitality of City centre and local centres.

Urban greenspace

Policy 42: Open Space or urban greenspace designations referenced in the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan under TNP4.

Environmental Objectives Summary (*ranges from ++ to +*)

The policy is expected to have a number of positive environmental effects in relation to the protection and improvement of habitats and biodiversity. Maintaining a linked network of green spaces throughout the city is essential to provide a green lung, support biodiversity and provide accessible locations for people to come into contact with nature. Maintaining a range of sites of varying sizes, form and location provides opportunities for a diversity of habitats and species to be present. The inclusion of all sites down to 0.1ha on the policies map increases the area of overall green space available and provides increased linkages between green spaces with associated benefits for biodiversity through increased habitat provision and reduced habitat fragmentation. It also provides opportunities for people to come into contact with nature.

Maximising the area of green space available is desirable as this provides natural flood risk attenuation and mitigation within the urban area which supports the existing flood risk management processes and infrastructure. The policy also should have positive effect on the townscape and heritage asset objectives.

Social Objectives Summary (+)

The policy should have an overall positive effect on social objectives with a significant positive effect in relation to health objectives of particular relevance to Thornton. Open space, sport, recreation and play facilities are important to the quality of place and to people's overall wellbeing. As well as offering opportunities for physical activity, good quality, accessible green spaces are also linked to positive mental health benefits and can support community cohesiveness. There is growing evidence suggesting that health inequalities between the most and the least deprived groups are reduced where there is improved access to green space. The policy therefore has a positive effect by providing open space for all, especially important in one of the highest deprived communities in the city, that Thornton where space is constrained by the built up nature of the area and provision of highway verges that tends to 'green' the area but there are limited functional recreation spaces. The provision of open space, sport, recreation and play facilities are important to the quality of place in Thornton that can support and create local identity and encourage a sense of community pride therefore the protection of such spaces that are used by the local community is particularly positive.

Economic Objectives Summary (0)

The policy is considered to have no direct relation to the economic objectives and therefore is likely to have an overall neutral effect.

Wildlife

Policy 44: Biodiversity and wildlife including reference to important sites outside the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan area.

Environmental Objectives Summary (ranges from ++ to +)

The policy provides specific guidance for the protection and assessment (where development proposed that may affect) of designated sites at a European, national and local level and legally protected species; incorporating the statutory processes required where applicable. The policy should have a significant positive impact as it aims to not only avoid, mitigate or compensate for harm but seek ways to enhance and restore biodiversity. This will have significant benefits for biodiversity; the protection of water quality in associated water bodies, managing flood risk, protecting soil resources, maintaining landscape character and indirect benefits to air quality. These essential ecosystem services are also measures to mitigate against the effects of climate change and all of which will help to promote stronger communities. The positive effects of implementing this policy are likely to increase over the Plan period.

Social Objectives Summary (+)

The improvement of green infrastructure in the area is likely to benefit health and well-being through the enhancement of the residential landscape and amenity, the provision of more areas for exercise and the improvement of air quality and general environmental conditions. Protecting biodiversity and wildlife as proposed will also have benefits to human

health. Overall the policy therefore should have a positive effect when considered against social objectives.

Economic Objectives Summary (0)

The policy is considered to have no direct relation to the economic objectives and therefore is likely to have an overall neutral effect.

Air pollution

Policy 47: Atmospheric Pollution references air quality management options referenced in the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan at paragraph 5.3.

Environmental Objective Summary (*ranges from ++ to +*)

The policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on environmental objectives as it seeks to avoid adverse impacts on sensitive ecological receptors, with particular reference to the Humber estuary; avoid developments that could worsen air quality, particularly in sensitive areas (e.g. Air Quality Management Areas) applicable to Thornton. In addition, it could reduce CO₂ emissions if more sustainable modes of transport are encouraged by developers seeking to improve local air quality.

Social Objective Summary (*ranges from ++ to +*)

The policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on social objectives as it aims to improve air quality and mitigate the negative effects from development (for example dust and odour) on human health and encourage sustainable modes of transport to reduce emissions and improve local air quality.

Economic Objective Summary (0)

The policy is considered to have no direct relation to the economic objectives and therefore is likely to have an overall neutral effect.

Local Plan Allocations

The assessment summarised in Table 6.1 to the SA that there are potential negative environmental effects on some/multiple receptors associated with the development of the majority of the proposed housing site allocations that includes site 502 Walker Street, within the Thornton Plan area (e.g. loss of biodiversity, impacts on designated sites, flood risk issues, impacts on listed buildings/Conservation Areas; contamination risks), although it is anticipated that many of these potential effects could be mitigated during the site development process through further assessment and appropriate design.

There are more housing options (not identified in the Local Plan) around the base of the Great Thornton Street flats. These are previously developed land sites. These are similar in

nature to the Local Plan site 502 housing allocation with the exception that there are positive impacts derived from use of previously developed land.

The assessment found that all the housing sites identified would support the good quality housing SA objectives and have good access to transport (SA13). All lie within close proximity to services, facilities and schools and scored positively, however it should be noted that some have better access than others. Some sites had a negative impact on health and community facilities as they would result in the loss of amenity greenspace, which the existing community might be using for leisure purposes and to maintain a healthy lifestyle (for walking or exercising). Such is the case for the Convent Lane site allocated under TNP1.

A consistent observation is that the site proposals do not contribute to addressing crime (perceived and actual). Although an abstract theme, the design of a development can have a reasonable effect on addressing this issue- such as adopting Secure by Design standards.

In economic terms, many of the effects are positive as they provide much needed housing in deprived areas, offer employment opportunities through construction and could generate need for local services in the long term, supporting local economic growth; although some sites will require further consideration. This is the case at Thornton.

Overall positive or neutral effects are observed across most site allocations. The uncertain or negative effects predicted are typically for the following reasons. Reference must be made to the detailed assessment for specific assessment results for each site.

Specific reference is also been made to:

- Reducing Emissions – Generally this scored as a neutral as a site allocation would have little effect on reducing emissions at this stage. However, any sites within an AQMA have been scored as having a negative effect against this objective as development within these areas is likely to exacerbate air quality related issues due to CO2 emissions.
- Air Quality – Any sites within an AQMA have been scored as having a negative effect against this objective. This is the case with the options raised in Thornton in proximity to the A63, although these impacts can be mitigated through policy provisions in the Local Plan, should they come forward for housing schemes.
- Previously Developed Land - In general, as most sites are on PDL the majority of sites score significantly positive under both SA8 (previously developed land). Where Greenfield sites (either in full or part) are put forward for development, the effect on this objective is considered significantly negative.

SEA 'screening'

Likely significant environmental effects are defined in Schedule 1 to the regulations as:

*1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—
(a) 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;

(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;

(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;

(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and

(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—

(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;

(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;

(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;

(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);

(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);

(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—

(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or

(iii) intensive land-use; and

(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Each of these is considered in turn.

Resource allocation

The Neighbourhood Plan policies/proposals seek to allocate resources looking toward the year 2030, but mainly in relation to housing renewal and environmental improvements. The plan references a community close to the city centre and that lies between major transport corridors. It is served by a local shopping/service centre. Proposed options seek to complement this activity of benefit to the long term sustainability of the neighbourhood and its residents. Resource allocation is therefore anticipated to be small scale given the area is predominantly social housing and impacts are limited to specific sites.

Influence of plans in a hierarchy

The Neighbourhood Plan options seek to put forward local projects to be enabled by Goodwin Development Trust. It sets a context for local provision and the impacts of which are unlikely to go beyond the plan boundary. The emerging new Local Plan provides some context for Thornton given the housing allocation and urban greenspace designations that are proposed. The Neighbourhood Plan complements these provisions.

Promoting sustainable development and good environmental management

The Neighbourhood Plan reflects local community aspirations. These are largely about improving local housing and the environment. Neighbourhood Plan contain provisions

concerning protecting urban greenspaces (with positive local impacts), local housing projects to improve areas suffering anti-social behaviour problems (with positive impacts) and traffic re-modelling (more than likely to have neutral impacts). Policy TNP7 reflects community aspirations to improve the environment of the locality through provision of local projects. Combined, these seek to make living conditions more sustainable. The plan provisions are of local environmental consideration so do not cover waste management or water protection, within the scope of the Local Plan.

Characteristics of the impacts

The likely impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan include:

- population increase (at best) from an estimated 4,000 to 4,200 or at least local stabilisation over the plan period;
- new housing provision totalling 50 dwellings and in using three windfall previously developed sites. Should these provisions not come forward it is likely that population mix would not be adversely affected, as most provision is social housing, but with an aspiration to attract families to live in the area;
- environmental improvements on a minimum of three sites, through new facilities being provided;
- retention of historic buildings will have a positive impact in retaining local culture;
- traffic diversion thereby improving pedestrian access to the Neighbourhood Centre. This is likely to have a positive effect by further limiting through-traffic thereby improving road safety, especially in locations where there is greater scope for pedestrian circulation around the local centre;
- reduced flood risk through defence provisions occurring outside the plan area, but also through retro-fitting SUDs measures locally;
- not unduly affecting highly sensitive areas of environmental importance (Ramsar, SPA, SAC and SSSI, along the Humber estuary, referred to in the Local Plan), as these are some distance (over 1.5km) from the plan boundary and physical change is limited to local housing renewal and environmental uplifts and any mitigations will be dealt with through the Local Plan Policy 44;
- health benefits arising from greenspace/environmental improvements in attracting people to exercise and to walk to facilities; and
- minimising adverse effects of local air pollution on prospective residents as new housing is located outside of the scope of the area of NO₂ exceedance or impacts are likely to be mitigated through policy provisions outlined in the Local Plan under Policy 47.

Of themselves these impacts are not considered to be of significance, either individually or in combination. They are not of such significance to affect areas outside the plan boundary. As such no strategic environmental assessment is required for the Thornton Neighbourhood Plan and it passes established screening tests.

Conclusions

Overall, the draft Thornton Neighbourhood Plan, is reflective of the emerging new Local Plan for the city, as it applies to the Thornton area. As such it is considered the policies and

provisions meet recognised sustainability objectives as set out in the SA that accompanies the new Local Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan has only local impacts and as such is not considered to have significant environmental impacts including those beyond the plan boundary. As such it passes the screening tests as set out under Regulation 9 (1) Environmental Assessment and Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004. However, these provisions require consultation with the appropriate bodies in confirming this to be the case, which occurred over June/July 2017 with no responses being received.