

Corporate Plan

2016-17



Introduction...

Welcome to Harborough District Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2017, the Council's vision for the district and its priorities.



Blake Pain
Leader
Harborough District Council

Our Corporate Plan for 2016-2017 sets out how we will work with our partners and the community to ensure that living, working or visiting the district is the best possible experience.

It is based on information about the area and customer feedback and identifies how we will achieve our long-term vision, what our key priorities are and how we will deliver the services our residents want.

Our vision...

Working with communities in a vibrant, safe and prosperous District.

Our Priorities...

- Working with communities to develop places in which to live and be happy.
- Enable public services which are effective and deliver value for money.
- Encourage a vibrant and sustainable business community intent on prosperity, employment and learning opportunities.
- Support the vulnerable in the communities where they live.

Our values...

- Value each other
- Strive to be the best we can
- Challenge and innovate
- Are open, honest and accountable



Beverley Jolly
Corporate Director - Resources



Norman Proudfoot
Corporate Director - Community Services



Welcome to Harborough District



Medbourne



Broughton Astley



Local cycle routes



Foxton Locks



Market Harborough

Harborough District, situated in the heart of the Welland Valley in rural south Leicestershire, is well known for its rolling countryside, picturesque villages, historic market towns, and unique independent shops.

With a population of around 85,000 and around 37,000 homes, the main settlements are Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley. There are more than 90 villages – many with populations of less than 200.

The district is one of the most sought after places in which to live in the East Midlands with property prices remaining strong, leading to increased demand for new housing, services and facilities.

The district regularly features in 'best places to live' surveys in national publications – due to it being relatively affluent with low crime, low unemployment, high owner-occupancy, high skills levels and above average earnings. It has good schools, and accessibility to larger towns and cities, the M1 motorway and direct rail links to London.

High streets remain vibrant with the local business community relatively resistant to national economic challenges. Independent shops attract business from far and wide, whilst dynamic and exciting community events attract visitors and harness the abundance of community spirit.

We work hard to encourage business and economic benefits, promote training and apprenticeships, and work with partners to open up new funding streams.

A high number of home-based businesses in the district are encouraged by an on-going campaign to bring superfast broadband speeds to more rural areas.

The district retains a strong sense of heritage and character, boasting a number of tourist attractions including Foxton Locks – one of the most popular destinations in the East Midlands – Kilworth House open-air theatre, Wistow Maze and a number of inviting country parks, cycle routes, and family play areas.

Harborough Museum houses the internationally important Iron Age and Roman finds known as the Hallaton Treasure, whilst Lutterworth Museum showcases the pioneering work of jet engine inventor Sir Frank Whittle.

Work is ongoing to make better use of our property assets, by continuing to revitalise Harborough Market by installing solar panels and energy-saving lighting and by leasing out space within our headquarters at The Symington Building. This has created a vital source of revenue benefiting council services and taxpayers as a whole.

Council priorities for 2016 - 2017

Priority

Working with communities to develop places in which to live and be happy

We have...

- Helped 22 parishes to be prepared for emergencies in their local communities
- Worked with partners on community safety schemes to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Consulted and negotiated changes to the waste collection service resulting in a saving of £1.4 million per year
- Supported 17 parishes with their Neighbourhood Plans
- Consulted with communities on future housing and other development needs
- Led an innovative Dragon's Den style event to increase investment in the voluntary sector within the district
- Invested over £600k to improve community facilities and recreation and provided £100k in grants to support community projects
- Continued to support events across the district, including Harborough by the Sea, Arts Fresco and Harborough in Bloom
- Supported over 50 sport and physical activities achieving in excess of 30,000 attendances

We will..

- Engage with communities on the emerging Local Plan
- Engage with communities to help them deliver Neighbourhood Planning
- Manage the allocation of funding secured from housing developments across the district
- Continue to develop and deliver sport and physical activities across the district
- Continue to offer district wide garden waste collections through the introduction of a subscription service
- Review the facilities at the Council's Leisure Centres
- Work with partners on community safety schemes
- Work with parishes on district and local priorities



Council priorities for 2016 - 2017

Priority

To provide public services which are effective and deliver value for money

We have...

- Reduced our share of the Council Tax charge by 5%
- Successfully managed increased demand for services whilst delivering £500k savings
- Disposed of Council assets which has generated in excess of £100k
- Installed solar panels and energy saving lighting to Harborough Market to reduce costs
- Ensured that appropriate community infrastructure was obtained when new development was delivered
- Worked with housing associations to help deliver affordable housing in the district
- Developed and improved online information and transactions resulting in an increased use of digital services
- Achieved savings through more streamlined purchasing of goods and services

We will...

- Keep Council Tax increases as low as possible
- Maximise income opportunities for our commercial services
- Work with partner councils to develop a countywide strategic growth plan in an efficient and cost effective way
- Support the development of a Combined Authority aiming to promote growth, investment and skills
- Implement and secure savings and generate income through the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan
- Improve the use of Council assets



Council priorities for 2016 - 2017

Priority

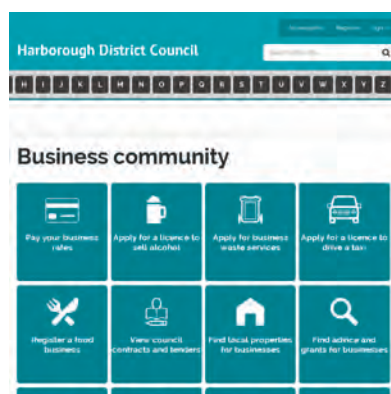
Encourage a vibrant and sustainable business community intent on prosperity, employment and learning opportunities

We have...

- Increased footfall at Harborough Market by improved promotion
- Developed a business newsletter with over 4,000 subscribers
- Invested in apprenticeships at the District Council and provided funding to local businesses to do the same
- Invested in and developed the Harborough District tourism offer
- Achieved national recognition of our Building Control work with local building firms
- Enabled employment growth by identifying suitable sites
- Achieved the highest business rate growth in Leicestershire
- Achieved full occupancy of the Harborough Innovation Centre providing support and accommodation to small businesses in the district
- Submitted bids for external funding for additional office space for growing businesses
- Secured European funding to support local rural businesses
- Invested in superfast broadband to ensure 90% coverage in rural areas
- Secured £200k of investment through broadband vouchers for businesses across the district

We will...

- Encourage businesses to invest in apprenticeships by providing funding
- Continue to maximise the tourism potential of the district
- Continue to work with partners to roll out superfast broadband across the district
- Support businesses to enable them to grow and access skills and training
- We will work to attract funding to provide high quality office space for growing businesses



Council priorities for 2016 - 2017

Priority

**To support the vulnerable in the community
where they live**

We have...

- Secured public health funding to tackle obesity and to increase participation in physical activity
- Invested additional money to support adaptations to enable people to stay in their own homes
- Reduced fuel poverty through accessing external funding to support those in need
- Worked with partners to mitigate the impact of welfare reform, providing assistance to those most in need
- Accessed government funding to improve housing conditions which lead to health improvements

We will...

- Work with partners to enable people to remain in their homes for longer
- Roll out the improvements to housing conditions that lead to health improvements
- Work with partners to support the provision of affordable housing
- Increase opportunities for the elderly and vulnerable at the Council's Leisure Centres
- Continue to work with partners to support families with the most complex needs
- Work with partners to provide support to Universal Credit claimants that need assistance



Elected members & political management *

We have 37 councillors who represent 25 wards.

* Post May 2015

The **Conservative** group, led by Cllr Blake Pain, has the majority with 29 seats.

The **Liberal Democrats**, led by Cllr Phil Knowles, have 8 seats.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|  Cllr Cindy Modha Billesdon |  Cllr Lesley Bowles Bosworth |  Cllr Mark Graves Broughton Astley - Astley |  Cllr Richard Tomlin Broughton Astley - Broughton |  Cllr Paul Dann Broughton Astley - Primethorpe |  Cllr Bill Liquorish Broughton Astley - Sutton |  Cllr Neil Bannister Dunton |  Cllr Stephen Bilbie Fleckney |
|  Cllr Charmaine Wood Fleckney |  Cllr James Hallam Glen |  Cllr Grahame Spendlove-Mason Glen |  Cllr Christopher Holyoak Kibworth |  Cllr Phillip King Kibworth |  Cllr Lynne Beesley-Reynolds Kibworth |  Cllr Blake Pain Lubenham |  Cllr Elaine Chapman Lutterworth - Brookfield |
|  Cllr Geraldine Robinson Lutterworth - Orchard |  Cllr Matthew Hammond Lutterworth - Springs |  Cllr Janette Ackerley Lutterworth - Swift |  Cllr Dr Sarah Hill Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden |  Cllr Barry Champion Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden |  Cllr Phil Knowles Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden |  Cllr Derek Evans Market Harborough - Little Bowden |  Cllr Amanda Nunn Market Harborough - Little Bowden |
|  Cllr Richard Hadkiss Market Harborough - Logan |  Cllr Barbara Johnson Market Harborough - Logan |  Cllr Roger Dunton Market Harborough - Welland |  Cllr Jo Brodrick Market Harborough - Welland |  Cllr Julie Simpson Market Harborough - Welland |  Cllr John Everett Misterton |  Cllr Michael Rickman Nevill |  Cllr Neville Hall Peatling |
|  Cllr Amanda Burrell Thurnby and Houghton |  Cllr Simon Galton Thurnby and Houghton |  Cllr Peter Elliott Thurnby and Houghton |  Cllr Michael Rook Tilton |  Cllr Rosita Page Ullesthorpe | <p>Find out more</p> <p>To find out more about each councillor, including contact details and information about which committees they sit on, visit our website at</p> <p>www.harborough.gov.uk/councillors</p> | | |

Managing the Council's finances 2016 - 2017

Planning for the future

The Council has responded well to the reduction in public sector finances from 2010. Each year, the Council has been able to set a balanced budget whilst freezing or reducing Council Tax.



The recent spending review (November 2015) has forecast that by 2020 Councils will be financed from two main sources, Council Tax and Business Rates. Government Grant in the form of Revenue Support Grant is forecast to cease by 2020.

In preparation for the financial challenges the Council has agreed a series of savings to its Environmental Services Contract to save £1.4 million a year by 2018.

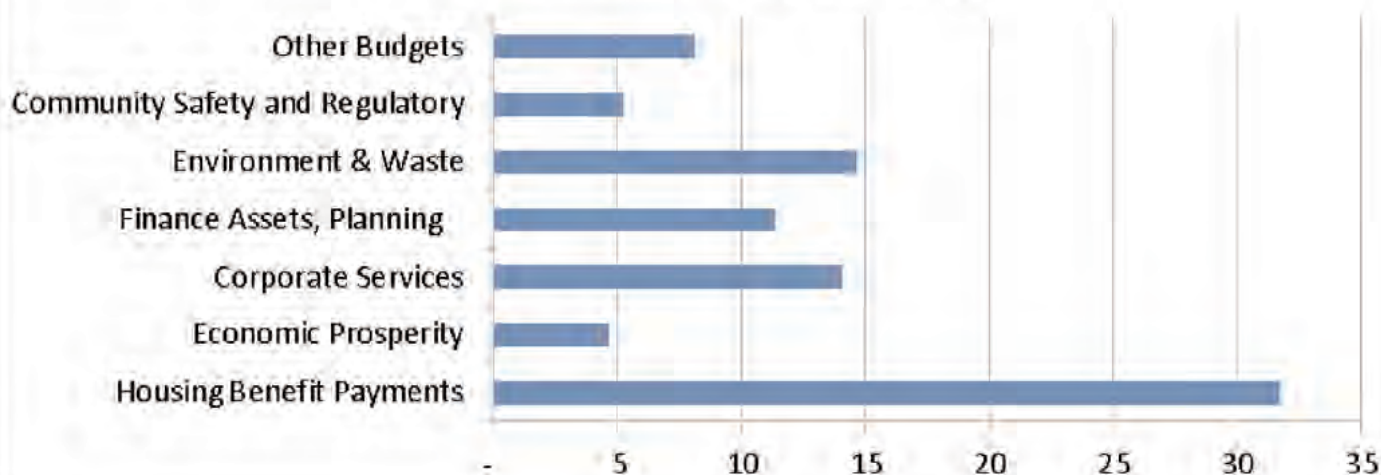
Increased reliance on retained business rates by 2020 results in increased volatility in financial planning, which will be managed through the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Further hard financial decisions are inevitable in 2016/17 and thereafter. The Council plans to respond to the challenges in a planned way and will use an appropriate level of reserves for both invest to save projects and to manage the impact of change.

Building on the sound financial platform from the past five years the Council, through its integrated business and budget planning framework, continues to identify efficiencies, promote innovation and to maximise locally generated funding and income streams.

The Council spends nearly £90k a day on services and supporting residents on the following priorities: {to be updated after the budget is approved}

Spend Per Day (£'000)





Contact the council

Visit our website at: www.harborough.gov.uk

Email us: customer.services@harborough.gov.uk

Make a payment using our Payment line (charged at local rate) on 0845 03003283



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Call us on: 01858 828282

(available from 8am to 5pm - closed for training from 9am to 9.30am on Wed)

Text: 07797 87 82 82

Visit us at:

Harborough District Council
The Symington Building
Adam and Eve Street
Market Harborough
Leicestershire LE16 7AG

Open - Mon/Tues/Thu/Fri: 8.45am - 5pm. Wed: 9.30am - 5pm



www.harborough.gov.uk