

## Climate emergency consultation report

The consultation ran from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. In all 131 people responded to the online survey. In addition, written submissions were received from three organised groups in the district. Roughly equal numbers of men and women responded to the online survey.

Over 75% of those who responded to the online survey agreed with the council commitments. Generally, the majority of respondents called for the Council to lead on action on the climate emergency and to be ambitious in action. However, a small number of respondents felt the council should not be engaged in this area at all. The role of planning and the local plan as a means to deliver low carbon development was mentioned in most responses.

The detailed responses to the individual questions are detailed below. Some points were made for more than one question, but this summary considers the points raised only against one of the questions. So, for example all planning comments are considered as part of the planning questions.

Respondents have asked for a clear timetable for the adoption of the action plan and detailed next steps. Many respondents also asked that a forum of local people be brought together to work with the council on future action.

**Commitment 1: The Council commits to demonstrate political and corporate leadership in acting on climate change**

**Question 1: The Council commits to demonstrate political and corporate leadership in acting on climate change. What else can the council do, given that not all areas of activity are the responsibility of the council?**

Key points	Council response
<p><b>Council should show more ambition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat climate change as an EMERGENCY, with similar response to the COVID pandemic</li> <li>• Set up a citizen forum to support and challenge the council's actions</li> <li>• Develop a vision of a zero carbon district to guide actions</li> <li>• Make a firm pledge on HDC own emissions, include milestones and monitoring</li> <li>• Produce 5 year plan with clear targets and make sure council acts, rather than just talk about it</li> <li>• Join UK 100 – committing to 100% renewable energy</li> <li>• Deliver real action</li> <li>• Ensure that the transition is fair to all</li> <li>• Government help will be required – use information produced by CCC</li> <li>• Stick to what the council can control</li> </ul>	<p>The Council is committed to working towards achieving carbon neutrality from its own assets. The Council does acknowledge that without external funding support achieving carbon neutrality will be difficult.</p> <p>The Council will take all opportunities to influence and encourage the reduction of emissions outside of their own control working with businesses and residents to reduce their own emissions.</p>
<p><b>Council should lead by example</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure climate and biodiversity are considered in all council decisions</li> <li>• Ensure members and staff have taken part in carbon literacy training and become accredited</li> <li>• Report annually on emissions from council actions</li> <li>• Ensure investments, including pensions are sustainable and exclude fossil fuel investments</li> <li>• Employ accounting techniques that include social and environmental cost as well as economic costs</li> <li>• Employ someone to lead action</li> </ul>	<p>All council reports include an assessment of the impact of the policy on environment and climate.</p> <p>Working with partners the council is investigating a Carbon Literacy program for staff and members.</p> <p>The council reports annually on their own emissions the report is published on the council's website. A report bringing together data on emissions across the district is also collated annually.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate widely on project that are designed to achieve commitments</li> <li>• Fund community environmental projects</li> <li>• Plant community orchards and promote community gardens on council owned land</li> <li>• Ensure management of council land promotes biodiversity and reduces use of pesticides and herbicides</li> <li>• Promote a free bike hire in main towns</li> <li>• Stop charging for green waste collection and promote more recycling, including in town recycling bins and ensure recycling is recycled</li> <li>• Be tough on Fly Tipping</li> <li>• Promote opportunities for domestic energy efficiency and renewables</li> <li>• Develop an advisory service to signpost grants and possible actions</li> <li>• Promote schemes to help residents work together to get better prices for low carbon installations (e.g. heat pumps or PV)</li> <li>• Consider costs for low income residents</li> </ul>	<p>The does have limited land asset however we will continue to investigate the management of its own land for biodiversity opportunities, food growing and climate resilience for example the wildflower planting in Welland Park recently won a regional award.</p> <p>The council welcomes the feedback and suggestions from the consultation process and will evaluate the viability and effectiveness of projects mentioned in this process.</p> <p>The Council has run a very successful fly tipping project “Tip Off”, which has led to prosecutions. It also monitors known fly tipping hot spots and has an online reporting form.</p>
<p>Promote good practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate good practice and share with businesses</li> <li>• Provide links to good evidence about climate change and the impacts</li> <li>• Demonstrate and promote opportunities for reducing emissions to residents</li> <li>• Promote tree planting and biodiversity opportunities with landowners including in hedge and roadside planting</li> <li>• Promote less carbon intensive food, including vegan alternatives</li> </ul>	<p>The council will investigate ways of promoting good practice and communicating with residents through a range of media</p>
<p>Work with others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with schools</li> </ul>	<p>The council is working closely with other Leicestershire authorities to collaborate on action around climate change.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote uptake of renewables including PV and heat pumps and electric vehicles to residents and businesses and promote reducing individual footprint</li> <li>• Look at training people to do insulation measures on their own properties and promoting new green jobs</li> <li>• Promote business advice and grants</li> <li>• Support and promote local groups e.g. for rubbish cleaning etc.</li> <li>• signpost local groups to funding opportunities</li> <li>• Work with large national businesses to promote reduced energy use, e.g. through light switch off at night in shops</li> <li>• Promote community power schemes</li> <li>• Support action with others, even if not within HDC area of responsibility</li> <li>• Work with Parish Councils to support local emissions reduction and biodiversity improvements</li> <li>• Support development of new Green jobs</li> <li>• Work with other local authorities</li> </ul>	<p>The council has established links with businesses and parish/town councils and will look at effective ways to work with local groups and businesses across the district to support and influence the reduction of emissions.</p> <p>The Council has recently agreed to enter into a partnership agreement with other local authorities to enable the collective purchase of PV panels for domestic properties.</p>
<p>Adapt and build resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat flooding as an increasingly likely problem</li> <li>• Have a long term plan to reduce flooding including natural flood management solutions and SuDS</li> <li>• Raise awareness of issue of overheating</li> <li>• Promote nature recovery</li> </ul>	<p>Through the Local Resilience Forum we are working together to help communities and businesses become more resilient and respond to flooding and other issues. In addition, we are members of the Soar Catchment Partnership and the Welland River Trust and have been working on proactively looking at supporting natural flood management projects</p>
<p>Lobby Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby national Government for support on more action, including planning and transport and additional resource</li> <li>• Advocate for better connections especially by rail and sustainable transport options</li> <li>• Lobby for 5% VAT for energy efficiency building materials</li> </ul>	<p>The Council will take every opportunity to engage with Local and National Government bodies to lobby for more action on climate change, including the provision of adequate funding to support this work.</p>
<p>Other possible Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a carbon tax on business and households and use revenue to invest in green infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>The Council welcomes the feedback from the consultation will investigate opportunities for innovative action where possible.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the reuse of items dropped off at municipal tip</li> <li>• Promote the Plastic Free Pledge</li> <li>• Subsidise reusable nappy scheme</li> <li>• Consider using EPCs as part of council tax valuation</li> <li>• Look at subsidies or reward scheme for retrofitting and renewable electric heating</li> <li>• Promote a local retrofit community scheme</li> <li>• Promote a rent a room, with insulation included and help with checks to allow this to happen</li> <li>• Total economic impact studies for different types of building, to be sure of costs of new technology</li> <li>• Employ a trained energy retrofit co-ordinator</li> <li>• Launch a green bond to provide funds for appropriate community projects to reduce emissions</li> <li>• Salary sacrifice for electric vehicles</li> </ul>	
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**Question 2: who should we be working with?**

Key Points	Council response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Leicestershire LA</li> <li>• Businesses including large employers in the district – e.g. Joules, Brooke House and SMEs, Renewable and low carbon companies in the district</li> <li>• Government agencies, such as the EA, Natural England etc</li> <li>• Schools and youth groups</li> <li>• Residents</li> <li>• Health centres and GPs</li> <li>• Local car dealerships</li> <li>• Recycling companies</li> <li>• HMP Gartree</li> <li>• Utility companies</li> </ul>	<p>The council welcomes the feedback from the consultation and will look at the best ways to work with all relevant stakeholders and partners</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental NGOs such as Woodland trust, RSPB, Plantlife, LRWT, Welland Valley Partnership, Sustrans</li> <li>• Activist groups such as Friends of the Earth, Climate Extinction, etc.</li> <li>• Local environmental groups – Sustainable Harborough, Harborough Woodland</li> <li>• HDC Supply chain</li> <li>• Employees of the council</li> <li>• MPs and Political parties</li> <li>• National and local experts</li> <li>• Diocese of Leicester</li> <li>• Parish councils</li> <li>• Community champions and village environment groups</li> <li>• Public transport companies</li> <li>• Farmers</li> <li>• House builders and developers</li> <li>• Charities, esp local charities</li> <li>• Universities</li> <li>• Pension and investments</li> </ul>	
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**Question 3: How do we best engage with MPs**

Key points	Council response
<p>Identify key issues that can be worked on together and continue to emphasise the importance of sustainability concerns</p> <p>Identify local actions they can help campaign on and focus on impacts of climate change, especially flood and heat waves</p> <p>Build relationships and regular contact and transparent channels of communication</p> <p>Lobbying, perhaps through an umbrella organisation such as the LGA – also to Government Ministers</p>	<p>The council has strong established links with our local members of partner and will take all opportunities for engagement with them on the issues raised through this consultation process.</p>

Public question time events	
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**Commitment 2: The Council commits to managing its own assets and services, with the aim of reducing carbon emission to net zero by 2030, as far as practical.**

**Question 4: It will be difficult to move away from gas heating, how do we best address this?**

Key point	Council response
<p>Corporate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be innovative and ambitious, as far as practical does not sound ambitious enough</li> <li>• Understand our baseline emissions</li> <li>• Review all activity to understand how to reduce emissions in those processes</li> <li>• Look to reduce scope 3 emissions as well as 1 and 2</li> <li>• Report annually on council emissions</li> <li>• Produce a local energy plan</li> <li>• Look at working with building users to reduce emissions</li> <li>• Investigate new working patterns to reduce travel and perhaps reduce number of assets, or convert assets to residential</li> <li>• Consider reducing the number of assets by moving to a single Leicestershire authority or working with other LAs</li> <li>• Consider changes to staff expenses to remove incentives for polluting vehicles and promote cycling and active travel</li> <li>• Go paperless for committee papers and in other council work</li> <li>• Have a tree planting target</li> <li>• Consider launching a Green Bond for residents</li> </ul>	<p>The council reports annually on emissions from the council's buildings and services and report is published on our website.</p> <p>The Council is looking at how it operates and learning from the Covid pandemic how best to operate and introducing new ways of working by our staff to reduce travel and minimise the use of paper through our operations for example.</p>
<p>Buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review all buildings, using a full building assessment to investigate opportunities for reducing energy use, renewable power and low carbon heating including:</li> </ul>	<p>The council does assess all buildings to identify savings and renewable energy opportunities</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Insulation</li> <li>○ Solar PV</li> <li>○ Solar thermal and heat pumps</li> <li>○ Look at hydrogen conversion for boilers</li> <li>○ Biogas/biomass</li> <li>○ Look at large scale renewables on council land to offset use in buildings</li> <li>○ Mechanical heat recovery</li> <li>○ Use Capex for replacing boilers with heat pumps</li> <li>○ Short term offsetting via tree planting</li> <li>● Put together a business plan for improving council owned buildings from the reports and recommendations. Use expert advice where needed.</li> <li>● Investigate district heating</li> <li>● Refurbish the Market Harborough Leisure centre rather than rebuild, make it more energy efficient and include renewables</li> </ul>	<p>We will include climate considerations in all decisions related to council assets and seek all funding opportunities to support the implementation of improvements.</p>
<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assess opportunities and move to increased electric vehicle uptake for council fleet</li> <li>● Investigate ways to improve efficiency of current fleet, including vehicle use (e.g. bin delivery)</li> <li>● Bring back the food waste collection</li> </ul>	<p>We will continue to assess opportunities for the use electric vehicles for the Councils fleet where technology and viability allow.</p>
<p>Other projects within the Council's powers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce licensing for landlords and then encourage or require renewables and insulation on rented homes</li> <li>● Consider bringing in electric vehicles for taxis, with a date for end of licensing ICE vehicles</li> </ul>	<p>We will investigate options for electric taxi licensing through the renewal of the licensing policy.</p> <p>We will continue to work with private sector landlords and social rented landlords and advise them of any opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of their housing stock.</p>

**What do we need to include in our procurement processes to reduce emissions?**

Key points	Council response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Work with other councils and purchasing organisations to develop a common approach</li> </ul>	<p>Current procurement includes some elements around environmental value, including working with local companies. We will consider how</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure procurement includes the climate and environmental impacts of goods or services procured and work towards a circular economy</li> <li>• Move council procurement to a circular economy approach, consider longevity and repairability.</li> <li>• Procure to consider triple bottom line (environmental and social as well as cost)</li> <li>• Invest for the future – whole life costs</li> <li>• Look at best practice e.g. Preston</li> </ul>	<p>to further incorporate climate change considerations as part of a procurement review in 2022.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expect providers to demonstrate a commitment to reducing their emissions and prioritising those with low emissions. Set minimum standards for low carbon emissions, for example zero carbon waste vehicles and grounds vehicles Ensure companies are working to at least UK 2050 target</li> <li>• Ask for evidence of work on reducing emissions (carbon footprint) to ensure that there is a track record, including recognised audit method. Be aware of greenwashing</li> <li>• Include whole life costs</li> <li>• Consider penalties for non compliance</li> <li>• Use local companies</li> <li>• Provide guidance to suppliers on reducing carbon emissions</li> </ul>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Stopping procuring items with large emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reusing items for longer to reduce new emissions</li> <li>• Ban single use plastics (water cups)</li> <li>• Promote meat free and low waste catering at council events</li> </ul>	<p>The Council has eliminated all single use plastics in our buildings.</p>

**Commitment 3: The Council commits to working with residents and communities to support their actions in reducing emissions and help them increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change.**

**How can we encourage more people to reduce their own emissions, without incentives?**

<p><b>Key Points</b></p>	<p><b>Council response</b></p>
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<p><b>Home</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote a Harborough ECO homes directory/ tour to help people see what they can do</li> <li>• Look for funding to train people in energy and water efficiency work</li> <li>• Explain costs and benefits of renewable energy at a household level</li> <li>• Deliver energy efficiency advice and offer energy efficiency audits</li> <li>• More information on biodiversity and tree planting and gardening with the environment in mind</li> <li>• Promote opportunities for domestic energy efficiency and renewables</li> <li>• Promote schemes to help residents work together to get better prices for low carbon installations (e.g. heat pumps or PV)</li> <li>• Promote “rent a room” schemes, which allow for insulation improvements.</li> <li>• Sponsor community retrofit schemes</li> </ul>	<p>The council works with Harborough Energy to help residents access energy efficiency grants.</p> <p>The Council has been successful in securing funding and is working in partnership with our main social housing provide to install retrofit energy saving measures in their properties.</p> <p>The Council will promote the collective purchase scheme for PV panels for homes across the district,</p> <p>The council will investigate other opportunities to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. Links to energy advice are included on the website <a href="#">Energy advice   Energy advice   Harborough District Council</a></p>
<p><b>Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote sustainable travel options</li> <li>• Subsidise public transport</li> <li>• Promote more bike routes</li> <li>• Disincentivise car use in towns, perhaps develop a park a ride facility</li> <li>• Install EV charging points</li> <li>• Consider free parking for Electric Vehicles</li> <li>• Reduce speed limits in residential areas</li> <li>• Promote car sharing in rural villages</li> <li>• Lobby to increase age to start driving</li> <li>• Look at promoting smaller cars over large ones</li> <li>• Pedestrianisation</li> <li>• Look at home working hubs to reduce commuting</li> </ul>	<p>The Council will work closely with Leicestershire County Council on sustainable travel options.</p> <p>We will promote <a href="#">...A smarter way to travel for Leicester and Leicestershire &gt; Choose How You Move</a> for all forms of sustainable transport.</p> <p>The council will continue to develop its network of EV charge points in our won car parks across the district, subject to external funding. There are currently 6 public charge points in operation with a further 10 planned to be installed by the end of 2021-22.</p>

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<p><b>Waste and recycling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support residents to recycle more, including through guidance and providing more options for recycling</li> <li>• Signpost residents to help and advice on energy and water savings (including incentives such as freebies)</li> <li>• Promote water saving</li> <li>• More recycling bins in town</li> <li>• Promote national schemes</li> <li>• Introduce a food waste collection</li> <li>• Support the development of repair cafes and swap shops</li> <li>• Showcase best practice for reducing emissions through council's own work and other groups and local businesses – carbon counter outside office</li> </ul>	<p>The Council will investigate all matters around waste and recycling as part of the waste strategy review with Leicestershire County Council.</p>
<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support community groups doing litter picks and other activities</li> <li>• Encourage meat free days in schools</li> <li>• Promote Harborough green Directory</li> <li>• Promote community renewables to parishes and communities</li> <li>• Consider an award for local good practice</li> <li>• Promote Clear and reliable information from trusted sources, including the impacts of climate change</li> <li>• Do awareness raising campaign, including info in council tax letter</li> <li>• Run a climate change festival with guest speaker (Greta Thunberg)</li> <li>• Introduce a climate education strategy and officers to work with schools, residents and businesses</li> <li>• Promote workshops in schools and villages</li> <li>• Publicise the impacts of climate change and the options for action</li> <li>• Promote specific actions along with national or local activity, e.g. meat free Monday</li> </ul>	<p>HDC supports community waste collections across the district.</p> <p>The Council welcomes the feedback from the consultation and will continue to investigate ways to support community action on climate change and community resilience.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote green initiatives through more publicity including with HFM and Harborough Mail and perhaps using empty shop front</li> <li>• Provide a database of volunteers and engage with volunteer groups regularly to encourage climate action</li> <li>• Engage with residents and local groups</li> </ul>	
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**How can we encourage more people to move to sustainable transport, including walking and cycling?**

Key theme	Council Response
<p><b>Reduce traffic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an integrated travel strategy to prioritise walkers and cyclists including ways to Discourage individual car use, including looking at no car zones, pedestrianisation of town centres</li> <li>• Investigate low traffic neighbourhoods/ shared spaces</li> <li>• Offer parking at innovation centre at the weekends to reduce traffic in town with a park and ride facility and look at park and ride to train station</li> <li>• Shutting off town centre roads for a weekend to promote car free options and pop up traffic free zones to see what reduced traffic is like</li> <li>• Increase parking charges</li> <li>• Introduce on street parking permits</li> <li>• Address congestion to make it more pleasant to walk/cycle and actively look to reduce traffic</li> <li>• More road side trees/ planting</li> <li>• Include a congestion charge</li> <li>• Make town centres car free</li> <li>• Restrict parking near schools</li> <li>• 20 mph limit to reduce air pollution and hazards</li> <li>• 40mph on minor roads for safety</li> </ul>	<p>The Council will work closely with Leicestershire County Council (the Highways Authority) on sustainable travel options, including all matters relating to road layout and design.</p> <p>The Council will also include active travel design in the review of the Local Plan and have contributed to the Leicestershire County Council consultation on active travel.</p> <p>We will promote <a href="#">...A smarter way to travel for Leicester and Leicestershire &gt; Choose How You Move</a> for all forms of sustainable transport.</p> <p>..</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed limits to be controlled via speed cameras, not traffic calming</li> <li>• More pedestrianisation, with space for street cafes</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Promote Cycling and walking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote active travel and look for funding to provide more cycle and walking routes and better bus connections. Work with Sustrans</li> <li>• Encourage business to engage with active travel agenda</li> <li>• Promote local cycle shops</li> <li>• Improve connectivity of cycle routes and provide more cycle parking, including in villages</li> <li>• Provision of online cycling and walking maps</li> <li>• Cycle paths in towns</li> <li>• Showering facilities and bike garage</li> <li>• Town bike/scooter hire</li> <li>• Ensure cycle lanes are not blocked</li> <li>• Keep cycle lanes well maintained</li> <li>• Include linked cycle paths as part of development of new estates</li> <li>• Cycle training</li> <li>• Promote wellbeing aspects of active travel</li> <li>• Subsidise bike sales promote bike recycling/ repair schemes</li> <li>• Cycle training and proficiency days</li> </ul>	<p>We will investigate ways to promote cycling and walking through our health and wellbeing work. This includes working with local business to encourage provision of facilities to help promote cycling, such as secure cycle storage, showers etc. We are also encouraging businesses to sign up to the Wellbeing Charter</p> <p>The Council promote active travel through our school games manager and the school games partnership.</p> <p>Active Harborough has been successful in developing a small ebike scheme, which we intend to upscale in order for more business in the community to get on board.</p> <p>The Council also promote the choose how you move grant and encourage people to purchase appropriate equipment for their local business. Cycle training is also available. There are also a number of cycle aps, which are available via our website.</p> <p>The Council promote cycle to work scheme.</p>
<p><b>Other Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillors lead by example</li> <li>• Ask residents for input</li> <li>• Find solutions to low carbon rural transport</li> <li>• Promote electric taxis and install appropriate infrastructure. Include date when ICE taxis not allowed to be licensed</li> <li>• Lobby for and Promote new or re worked rail links where suitable</li> <li>• Promote/ fund an electric car club</li> </ul>	<p>The Council are currently consulting on health, wellbeing and leisure which will inform the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which will include active travel.</p> <p>The Council welcomes the feedback from the consultation will investigate innovative options for low carbon transport, with partners where action is outside the remit or control of the Council.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote electric ice cream vans</li> <li>• Promote local delivery service linked to local producers/shops</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Council run not for profit transport including free travel for school kids</li> </ul>	
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**What else can we do in relation to promoting local food and local food growing?**

<b>Key points</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<p>Local Food business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persuade local retailers to stock local food and local restaurants to use local suppliers. Taste Harborough was doing a good job on this, but has ceased to exist.</li> <li>• Use Events such as the Taste Harborough “Taste Trail” to promote tourism too</li> <li>• Encourage focus on local quality affordable food</li> <li>• Enable local growers to advertise to local people</li> <li>• Promote local growers through events, shows etc</li> <li>• Help make local food cheaper, for example subsidise market stalls for local growers/ producers, reduce rates for stores selling local produce (within 30/40 miles)</li> <li>• Promote a local Climate Smart Agriculture.</li> <li>• Support a delivery service by independents to rural villages</li> <li>• Consider a Local loyalty system</li> <li>• Look at a verification of local food miles</li> <li>• Promote eco village and other local food businesses</li> <li>• Develop plans to promote Lutterworth as a food destination</li> <li>• Link local food and tourism</li> <li>• Consider a Local food mark</li> <li>• Make refills and non plastic packed food cheaper</li> </ul>	<p>The Council actively promotes Shop Local and other similar campaigns.</p> <p>Whilst Taste Harborough has unfortunately ceased, the Council’s Economic Development team would be very keen to support any similar initiatives to promote local food &amp; drink, (including possible Taste Trails).</p> <p>The Council is not able to subsidise the cost of market stalls, although the day rates for Pop-up stalls in Market Harborough are designed to be very affordable and business advice is available to support new businesses. Farmers Market rate is £21 per stall, which is considerably more affordable than many other similar markets.</p> <p>The Council would certainly be interested to discuss any ideas for local delivery services and local loyalty systems.</p> <p>The Council has and does support the Market Harborough Eco Village, including through Covid Business grants and support for the Leaf Plant Festival in 2021.</p> <p>A big part of our local tourism promotion is about local food and drink, and we are always interested to explore further partnerships. The council is not aware of any specific local food mark, but would be interested to explore ideas.</p>

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	<p>The Council has supported the introduction of food refill systems and would be keen to expand these opportunities.</p>
<p>Food Growing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote community orchards and more allotments</li> <li>• Provide Community growing space</li> <li>• Consider space for community small holding ( could have tourism benefits)</li> <li>• Ensure provision of allotment space is included in planning conditions in new development</li> <li>• Financially incentivise allotment users</li> <li>• Promote seed swaps</li> <li>• Engage with farmers</li> <li>• Promote harvest sharing and reduction of food waste</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan includes specific requirements for allotment space.</p>
<p>Council direct action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce pesticide and herbicide use</li> <li>• Procure local food for council catering</li> <li>• Encourage local food in schools</li> <li>• Provide community growing spaces and orchards on council land</li> <li>• Look at supporting local food sales in the markets, ask that food comes from within 30 miles</li> <li>• Provide a shared tool resource for allotments (e.g. rotovators)</li> <li>• Encourage village farmers markets</li> <li>• Send seeds out with council tax bills</li> <li>• Offer free parking for local spend</li> <li>• Encourage garden coaching</li> </ul>	<p>The Council does not use pesticides and keeps the use of herbicide to a minimum.</p> <p>The Council works with Public Health Leicestershire on a range of projects to promote food growing in schools and care homes. In addition, the projects support the training of master gardeners and caster composters.</p>
<p>Promotion and advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate good practice and provide information on food growing e.g. in library</li> <li>• Encourage excess produce sharing</li> <li>• Work with schools</li> <li>• Work with farmers to reduce pollution into rivers</li> </ul>	<p>The council will investigate opportunities for innovative food projects in partnership with Public Health Leicestershire.</p> <p>The Council works with the Welland Partnership, including supporting farmers.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give a balanced view on local meat as well as plant-based diets</li> <li>• Encourage supermarkets to stock local food</li> <li>• Promote local food in community magazines</li> <li>• Work with other organisations such as Great Food Club to promote local food</li> <li>• Advice on seasonal food</li> <li>• Get allotment users to promote food growing</li> <li>• Encourage village community gardens</li> <li>• Stories from local business and producers</li> <li>• Advice to reduce the paving of gardens</li> </ul>	<p>The Council is investigating becoming a Local Good Food Place.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for ELMS for farmers to include organic allotment land for local people</li> <li>• Don't use farmland for development</li> <li>• Ensure Buses to local food businesses</li> <li>• Look at ways to reduce food waste e.g. too good to go app for swapping food near date</li> </ul>	

**How can we best encourage better public transport and lift sharing?**

<b>Key theme</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<p><b>Council actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicise public transport links better</li> <li>• Consider Park and ride into market towns</li> <li>• Reduced parking cost for car sharer ( registered via app)</li> <li>• Council to develop own services based on community transport for small buses</li> <li>• Have lift share spaces to park</li> <li>• Publicise a lift share app and get local businesses involved but consider Covid risk</li> <li>• Look for best practice in other LA</li> <li>• Ensure public transport links are planned into new developments</li> </ul>	<p>The council will work closely with LCC on sustainable travel options. We will promote <a href="#">...A smarter way to travel for Leicester and Leicestershire &gt; Choose How You Move</a> for all forms of sustainable transport.</p>
<p><b>Partnership</b></p>	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with providers to increase number of buses, improve reliability and have better buses with on board route information</li> <li>• Ensure bus routes meet local needs e.g. able to get to work in time</li> <li>• Penalise car use and reduce cost of public transport</li> <li>• Lobby for better rural coverage with Flexible rural bus available to book almost like a taxi</li> <li>• Frequent user bus cards to promote use of public transport</li> <li>• Clamp down on antisocial behaviour</li> <li>• Consider changes to free bus passes to ensure more money goes into the bus service</li> <li>• Canvas bus users</li> <li>• Electric busses</li> <li>• Improve connection travel, e.g. bus to railway station</li> </ul>	<p>The Council welcomes the feedback from the consultation will work with Leicestershire County Council to look at ways to improve access to public transport where suggested actions are outside the remit or control of the council.</p>
<p>Other ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support parish/local lift share project</li> <li>• Lift share cars have a special lane to drive in</li> <li>• Incentives for car sharing</li> </ul>	<p>As above.</p>

**Commitment 4: The Council commits to working with businesses to support their actions in reducing emissions and help them increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change**

**How can we best engage with businesses?**

Key points	Council response
<p><b>HDC support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HDC can lead by example</li> <li>• Publicise services to businesses with the rates bill mailing</li> <li>• Green rating scheme to promote best businesses (similar to hygiene rating)/ Green business award?</li> </ul>	<p>The Council has achieved and promotes the BREEAM Excellence rating secured for our two Council Business Centres, (Harborough Innovation Centre &amp; Harborough Grow-on Centre). In addition, the Council is</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage adoption of zero carbon business plan</li> <li>• Release an annual State of the Town” report on social, economic and environmental matters</li> <li>• Disseminate information on the impacts of climate change and support business resilience to those impacts</li> <li>• Promotion of green jobs and new business opportunities</li> <li>• Provide training on reducing emissions for SMEs</li> <li>• Encourage home working</li> <li>• Consider using carbon taxes, and rate reductions for businesses that adopt renewable energy and green solution</li> <li>• Look at disincentives for those who don’t act</li> </ul>	<p>working towards a plan to install further Solar Panels, EV charging and LED lighting at the Business Centres.</p> <p>The Economic Development team produce a Business Bulletin, which promotes business opportunities, support and good practice, which is sent out to businesses on a fortnightly basis.</p> <p>The Council is promoting and supporting businesses to sign up for the Zellar scheme to support local businesses work towards Net Zero.</p> <p>The Council promotes local jobs for local people, via it’s Harborough Jobs webpage.</p> <p>The Council encourages home working where appropriate and recently introduced an Agile Working Policy for it’s own staff. Our Business Centres can also support hybrid working options, or occasional office or meeting use.</p> <p>The Council would prefer to use positive promotion of green solutions, rather than taxes or financial penalties.</p>
<p><b>Engagement with businesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get to know local businesses and ensure HDC are working with the biggest emitters</li> <li>• Understand issues that small businesses face and develop good advice and information and signposting on how to help them reduce emissions, including grant information.</li> <li>• Use expertise of various local groups like Sustainable Harborough and promote working together on solutions</li> <li>• Alert businesses to “climate crime” issues</li> <li>• Run workshops and networking events on energy efficiency and other sustainability issues and ensure businesses are aware of money saving opportunities</li> <li>• Work with partners, including chambers of commerce</li> <li>• Support business EV charging points</li> </ul>	<p>A number of Council services, including Economic Development, Environmental Health and Planning, work closely with businesses, (although face to face contact has been limited over the last 18 months). We do not, however, currently prioritise work with the biggest emitters. The Council always endeavours to understand the challenges which small businesses face and welcomes any requests for support and advice.</p> <p>The Zellar scheme aims to support local businesses work through specific steps towards Net Zero.</p> <p>The Council works closely with Sustainable Harborough Communities, for example on the promotion of the Big Green Week, and would be happy to develop further collaboration.</p>

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	<p>The Council would be happy to organise and promote workshops and networking events for businesses on energy efficiency, sustainability and money saving issues and opportunities.</p> <p>The Economic Development team works very closely with a range of partners, including local Chambers of Commerce.</p> <p>The Council is supporting the development of further EV vehicle charging points in public car parks and at our Business Centres.</p>
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**How can we promote our good practice to encourage others to do the same?**

<b>Key points</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<p><b>HDC communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure HDC practices are good and be transparent and show how it can be replicated.</li> <li>• Don't waste money</li> <li>• Employ a climate change officer and a supportive team</li> <li>• Make sure council operations are sustainable</li> <li>• Learn from good practice elsewhere.</li> <li>• Publicise in newspaper, radio, on website and social media and at local events, including with specific stakeholders. Look for innovative ways to communicate e.g. podcasts</li> <li>• Promote tools to reduce carbon footprint</li> <li>• Share quality verified information through a range of channels and with many stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p>The council will investigate ways to publicise our actions and support for climate change activity.</p> <p>A Climate Change officers group ensures that council activity is shared across the council and opportunities for joint activity are recognised.</p> <p>The Council will develop a communications plan to support delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, including press social media and other means of engaging and promoting climate action.</p>
<p><b>Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do workshops and meetings, engage with local groups, other local authorities, parish councils and expert partnerships to share best practice</li> <li>• Use case studies, including low carbon development</li> </ul>	<p>The Council will continue to develop its engagement with key stakeholders and interested groups on the back of the consultation process.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a community forum to work with on climate emergency action plan and project</li> <li>• Promote the work of local groups</li> <li>• Have a five-year district wide climate awareness programme to promote action</li> </ul>	
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**Commitment 5: The Council commits to ensuring that new development is designed to mitigate emissions and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.**

**Should we ask developers to build to higher standards?**

<b>Key points</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<p><b>Planning Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the review Local Plan promotes high quality low carbon development, including industrial warehouses and provides infrastructure for a low carbon future (e.g. EV charging infrastructure) and renewable energy.</li> <li>• Stronger policies for all development not just major development as in current policy. (CC1 GD 8)</li> <li>• Council should require higher standards for new builds</li> <li>• All new builds should have low carbon heating/cooling renewables, better insulation, water reductions installations, electric car charging, secure cycle parking, (ask for Passivhaus or EPC A)</li> <li>• Consider sustainable materials and use of land, with brown field preferred to green</li> <li>• New development should include permeable surfaces and properly managed wildlife corridors (not just a fenced off area with no actual wildlife management) and existing tree preservation included in planning requirements.</li> <li>• Careful consideration of road planning needed and good quality walking and cycling infrastructure required to promote</li> </ul>	<p>Climate change will be an important part of the next Local Plan. Members are considering the timetable for preparing this at Cabinet in Sept, having agreed principal in July.</p> <p>The Planning Obligations SPD is looking to be proactive in terms of encouraging people to think about delivering Biodiversity Net Gain in advance of the legislation being enacted</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been updated to include increased emphasis on Street Trees, this will be fed into plan-making and DM decisions.</p> <p>SuD's are already promoted through Local Plan policies and DM decisions.</p> <p>Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland sport, and Sport England are working on Healthy Place making and will look at additionality of healthy place making including climate change benefits. Promoting active travel through good design is part of the LLR project. The web based tool is yet to be formally launched</p>

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<p>active travel. Amenities should be close by to reduce need for travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enough affordable housing should be included</li> <li>• Developments should include high quality green space, promoting biodiversity and support climate adaptation, including trees for shade, wildflower verges etc..</li> <li>• Free standing renewable energy should be promoted</li> <li>• Ensure Local Plan and neighbourhood plans are assessed for their impact on carbon emissions.</li> <li>• Ensure local plan promotes increased biodiversity including via Biodiversity net gain</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Development control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S106 and CIL etc should be used to get best outcomes. Is the council effective in collecting and using S106 funding?</li> <li>• Supplementary planning documents should be used to support low carbon design</li> <li>• Consider Fast track high quality sustainable development</li> <li>• strongly enforce the planning permission conditions</li> <li>• Consider S106 for low carbon refurbishment grants</li> </ul>	<p>The council have robust mechanisms in place for collecting and allocating S106 funds</p>

**How can we ensure developments are resilient to climate change?**

<b>Key points</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<p><b>Planning Policy</b></p> <p>Review of Local Plan policy should include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• blue green infrastructure planned in</li> <li>• flood resilience in designs</li> <li>• Ensure buildings are built to reduce risk of overheating. Green roofs provide protection from overheating in buildings, as can overhanging shading.</li> <li>• Promote best practice and include high standards</li> <li>• If offsetting is used, it must be robust and verifiable</li> </ul>	<p>In supporting Local Plan policy G12, the Open Spaces Strategy and the Provision for Open Space Sport and Recreation Action Plan deal with these issues. (Local Plan para 9.3.5 states how this will be delivered through the Open Spaces Strategy)</p> <p>The OSS and action plan set out the amount of green space that should be provided on new development and includes provision for habitat and biodiversity as part of Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace provision at the rate of 8.5 ha per 1000 population across the district.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree planting should be included to provide shading and protection from overheating and improvements in biodiversity. Significant natural area planting is necessary to provide resilience. Good maintenance of green space should be included in planning conditions.</li> <li>• Developers should include resilience to climate change in their design statements</li> <li>• Avoid flood plains and ensure developments deal properly with surface water run-off. Good quality SuDs, within green infrastructure needed. Include rainwater collection and storage at building and site level.</li> <li>• Ensure adaptation and resilience is included to reduce impacts of climate change, including green infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>If natural and semi natural greenspace cannot be provided on site, then off site contributions are sought to enhance existing provision.</p> <p>HDC works with third parties to provide enhancement to existing natural greenspace</p> <p>Local Plan Policy G11 seeks to protect and enhance Green Infrastructure networks where possible and appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Development Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide signposting to good advice and evidence, including supplementary planning guidance</li> <li>• Take good practice information from other areas and promote solutions</li> <li>• Ensure HDC has good data on impacts to publicise to developers and communities</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Other actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement to retrofit previous development in some cases, need to identify where there is risk and potential solutions</li> <li>• Consider housing certification scheme</li> <li>• Lobby government for stronger requirements, including in building regulations and planning policy.</li> </ul>	

**How should we help developers build more biodiverse space with good space for water?**

Key points	Council response
<p><b>Planning Policy</b></p> <p>Planning policy should be strengthened in the review of the local plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid building on green field sites</li> </ul>	<p>Local Plan policy G12 ensures developer provide appropriate open space on site or through off site contributions. (OSS 9.20)</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be firm with developers push for the best standards. Ensure all developments include appropriate environmental areas, with input from ecological experts to help with good design</li> <li>• Developments should be designed around a central green park, providing social and environmental space and include an appropriate management scheme and funding for the future</li> <li>• Trees for shade and SUDS should be central to the design of green space, which should be central to the community. Watercourses should be central to green space. Areas should be left wild for biodiversity</li> <li>• Design should include adaptation to extreme rainfall events</li> <li>• Corridors of green space should be included as well as ponds, with native planting to allow for biodiversity connectivity</li> <li>• Consider low density development to ensure green space is included</li> <li>• Wildlife areas need to be mapped and identified and properly protected</li> <li>• Include policy for biodiversity net gain to ensure funds are available for good quality biodiverse green spaces</li> <li>• Promote environmental benefits in neighbourhood plans</li> </ul>	<p>Landscape Management Plans are required through conditions to ensure appropriate management of open spaces on new development sites. (OSS 9.21 and 9.22)</p> <p>SUDs and attenuation basins are required to be integrated into Natural and semi natural greenspace and should be planted for habitat and biodiversity.</p> <p>The Council response to Biodiversity Net Gain has yet to be determined.</p> <p>Most Neighbourhood Plans provide a detailed review of environmentally important sites. The sites are mapped in the NDP as part of the policy maps.</p> <p>WVP catchment mapping portal and Welland Ecosystem Services PhD provide mapping of ecosystems in Welland Catchment  <a href="http://www.wellandrivertrust.org.uk/wvp-catchment-mapping-portal/">http://www.wellandrivertrust.org.uk/wvp-catchment-mapping-portal/</a></p>
<p><b>Development Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use planning conditions to achieve good outcomes</li> <li>• Offer incentives – possibly use S106 funds for environmental improvements</li> <li>• Ensure good environmental assets are preserved during development. Enforce planning conditions on site</li> </ul>	<p>A count of 17 development sites approved/submitted since 2019 has provided the following information  Trees: 1096 planted or approved  Native Shrubs: 8629 planted or approved  Native Aquatics: 1378 planted or approved</p> <p>Landscape Management Plans are required for new open space on development sites.</p> <p>Management Companies are responsible for maintaining open space on development sites</p>
<p><b>Advice and signposting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide links to good practice guides and learn from other LA best practice</li> </ul>	<p>HDC works with a number of third party organisations to deliver environmental benefits (Welland Rivers Trust, Welland Valley</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure good quality environmental impact assessments are carried out on sites</li> <li>• Work with local partners</li> <li>• Investigate local offsetting with local NGOs and community organisations.</li> </ul>	<p>Partnership, Harborough Woodland, Soar Valley Catchment Partnership, GWCT</p>
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**Commitment 6: The Council commits to working in partnership to promote resilient natural systems that will help to reduce the impacts of climate change.**

**What more do we need to do to try to reduce flood risk to settlements?**

<b>Key Points</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<p><b>Understand the risk</b> Clearly identify properties and areas at risk work with partners (LCC, catchment partners) to fund upstream improvements to reduce risk</p>	<p>HDC work with catchment partnerships to provide NFM and other suitable interventions, reducing the risk of flooding and providing new habitat</p>
<p><b>Maintain assets to reduce flooding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure waterways are kept clear of debris</li> <li>• Ensure drains are checked and kept clear</li> <li>• Ensure assets are maintained, e.g. flood tanks, so that they don't contribute to flood risk</li> <li>• Promote provision of more flood wardens in known flood hotspots, include training</li> <li>• Make reporting a flood easier</li> </ul>	<p>The Council will work closely with Leicestershire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority and the Local Resilience Forum to highlight issues and to identify and train local flood wardens to make local communities more resilient</p>
<p><b>Promote natural methods to reduce flood risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote natural methods to slow river flow, including river naturalisation, flood plain reconnection, slowing the flow and NFM. Work with partners (catchment partnerships, LCC) to identify opportunities</li> <li>• Promote catchment sensitive farming and riparian buffer zones with partners. Include the management of soil erosion.</li> <li>• Include Tree planting and wet woodland planting in suitable areas</li> </ul>	<p>Catchment partnership work in close liaison with catchment sensitive farming project (GWCT) and catchment farming advisers.</p> <p>Catchment Partnerships include Rutland County Council, Leicestershire County Council , Harborough District Council, GWCT, Leics and Rutland Wildlife trusts Wild Trout Trust Natural England, Forestry Commission Gwash Fishing Club, Leicester University, Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water amongst others</p>



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<p><b>Other actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase floodplain land as a community asset</li> <li>• Explain the processes that impact on flooding to engage people more with methods to reduce flooding, including SUDs and not paving over gardens</li> <li>• Discourage the paving over of gardens</li> </ul>	<p>HDC and partners are investigating opportunities for alternative utilisation of land in conjunction with landowners and for opportunities to purchase land (if appropriate and affordable) to provide opportunities to plant woodland, enhance water courses and provide new habitat.</p>
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**How can we best work with landowners to promote tree planting, hedge maintenance and biodiversity?**

<b>Key points</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<p><b>Direct Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead by example on council land</li> <li>• Employ an ecologist to support projects and work with advisory support through partners</li> <li>• Include planting in planning permission and enforce planning, where planting required.</li> <li>• Make it a legal requirement and impose fines</li> <li>• Start an award scheme for environmental improvement</li> <li>• Provide nature workshops for schools and young people as part of wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>HDC will need to consider resources required to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain and whether an ecologist can be employed to support this.</p> <p>Planning permission is issued subject to requirement for landscape scheme and landscape management plans. Natural and semi natural greenspace is required as part of new development. Comments provided by officers promote the provision of green space and provision of natural and semi natural open space.</p>
<p><b>Partnership and support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signpost to grants and look for new funding sources, e.g. through crowdfunding or local business support and promote through local case studies Work with partners, including LRWT and community groups and volunteers e.g. scouts and Harborough Woodland</li> <li>• Promote ELMS for farmers</li> <li>• Signpost to information on tree management</li> <li>• Look for ecotourism opportunities</li> <li>• Signpost to best practice and advice</li> <li>• Look at being able to provide trees to communities and small landowners or signpost to organisations offering trees</li> </ul>	<p>Farming advice is given through WVP in the Welland Catchment.</p>

**How can we help parishes deliver more tree planting?**

<b>Key points</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<p><b>Direct support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HDC must show example, report on tree planting, maintenance etc</li> <li>• Not just on trees but other climate change environmental action should be considered with parishes</li> <li>• Provide advice, support, signposting to grants etc share best practice case studies. Look at reducing burden of “red tape”. Signpost to offsetting schemes</li> <li>• Fund saplings for parishes. But ensure maintenance is considered and protection from vandalism</li> <li>• Work with parishes to identify sites, including verges. Consider a special promotion to increase publicity, interest and uptake. Work with local landowners who might offer a small patch of land to the parish. Link with other environmental concerns e.g. rivers and flooding.</li> <li>• Promote benefit of tree wardens for parish councils</li> </ul>	<p>Advice and support for parishes is subject to available resources. Parishes can engage with initiatives such as Stepping Stones etc.</p> <p>Saplings and whips for Parishes can be sought through Natural England and Woodland trust initiatives. LCC promote schemes.</p> <p>Parishes can identify suitable verges for tree planting. This can be undertaken through Neighbourhood Plans. LCC are supporting parishes to wild their verges.</p> <p>LCC manage and promote the Tree Warden Scheme and further details can be sought from Leicestershire County Council.</p>
<p><b>Partnership working</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with schools, local community groups and business. Also get support from local groups and partnerships to support delivery (e.g. Welland River Trust, Harborough Woodland) e.g. train volunteers and ensure correct choices of trees. Provide education and fun events. Link with Woodland Trust</li> </ul>	<p>River Warden training is being rolled out as part of work with Welland Rivers Trust. Recent support from Market Harborough Building Society has been secured to support this initiative.</p>

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<p><b>Innovative actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote seed forage hunts with community groups</li><li>• Have a new tree planted for each new baby</li><li>• Discount on council tax for tree planting</li><li>• Instigate a project for a new Harborough Forest, which would require acquiring land</li></ul>	<p>The Welland Rivers Trust has developed its new five year plan (attached) and will be seeking opportunities over the Plan period to work with key stakeholders across the catchment to deliver environmental benefits for watercourses.</p> <p>The key drivers for the Trust are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Water quality</li><li>- Biodiversity</li><li>- Community engagement and</li><li>- To improve the river for people and wildlife</li></ul> <p>Creation of a country park was identified in the Open Spaces Strategy 2021 as a priority for the Town. Sustainable links/cycle routes can be improved between Market Harborough and Great Bowden to ensure public access is assured and the Council also meets its Health and Wellbeing agenda.</p> <p>Funding available for woodland through the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)</p>
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Extra queries

Footpath Harborough to Foxton impassable	<a href="#">Where to walk in Leicestershire   Leicestershire County Council</a> report an issue
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