

Draft Corporate Plan content for wider circulation and engagement of stakeholders

The vision and narrative – our long-term aspiration for the district

Working with our communities, we will build a future for the people of Harborough district that gives them the best life chances and opportunities through:

- Community leadership to create a sense of pride in our place
- Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices
- Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations
- Supporting businesses and residents to deliver a prosperous local economy

The Covid-19 pandemic has really altered the way that public services are provided. The Council will continue to focus on improving the experience of our customers by looking at the needs of people in our communities, and the places they live in, and to focus on improving how residents interact with the Council – everything from waste collection to making a planning application - making sure that we can improve and maintain services for everyone into the future.

We are driven by our ambition to make the Harborough district a place where our residents can live the best lives they can. We want our businesses and economies to thrive and our environment to be managed in a sustainable way, ensuring the needs of these communities are met and that the district maintains its own local identity and unique surroundings. Whilst we will focus on longer term prosperity and continued growth of the district and provide clarity on what we want the future to look like, we will also deliver short and medium-term goals to achieve positive outcomes for all.

Securing a prosperous future for Harborough district is a shared responsibility. As a Council, we must be focused on the areas where we can have the biggest impact – but we will work closely with residents, businesses, and other public services.

By encouraging collaboration, community cohesion and giving all an opportunity to participate, we will achieve more than any single organisation, or a person could achieve working alone. As a Council, we will be working to understand our communities' needs and ensuring they have easy access to services that address those needs, whilst promoting healthy life choices, improving wellbeing and a thriving local economy.

Working together, we will shape our district to be an outstanding destination for both business and leisure. This will involve a focus on place shaping and design to preserve what is special about our area whilst embracing future sustainable developments, attracting inward investment and reinvigorating our local economies and communities.

Underpinning our ambitious vision, the Council led transformational change programme will focus on working with residents, businesses and other public services to put robust plans in place and then on delivering those plans. This will be an evolving

process which will take time to implement and for the benefits to be fully realised - so, we must all be committed to playing our part.

Within the Council, continuous improvement, financial sustainability, value for money, and a relentless focus on resident and business needs will be the new normal. Our services will need to respond more quickly to changes in need and we will work to ensure that we empower residents and businesses to help themselves where possible. The Council will lead and advocate for change and collaborate with others to meet local needs where required. Where it is needed, it will move quickly and respond effectively.

To inform this change, we will look to use best practice and modern local government models from across the country and as our communities and local businesses grow and develop, the council will adapt and change to meet the future demands and expectations of our residents.

Our shared vision will be our guide as we embark on this journey together.

The critical outcomes – what we want to achieve over the long term

Place and community

- There will be an adequate supply of housing to meet local needs across all tenures and price ranges, and reducing the potential for homelessness
- Our local plan will ensure growth in the area is balanced with employment opportunities and transport and infrastructure needs are met
- The rural nature of the district will be recognised, and our heritage and cultural assets are preserved
- Our local communities and voluntary sector are more engaged and actively managing their own localities and shaping their own places
- The district will be shaped through good design, that addresses local needs and promotes healthier life choices

Healthy Lives

- Our residents will be able to live more independent lives, with the right support and guidance in place to allow this
- The aging local population will have access to services that help them to live well for longer
- Activity will be increased, through the use of active travel routes and the provision of a varied leisure offer throughout the district
- The district will have improved public safety and confidence, through the use of community safety initiatives and tackling crime together with our partners
- Physical and mental health needs will be addressed to prevent crisis and support those that are the most vulnerable in our communities, including those that face loneliness, food and fuel poverty and those that need support to remain in their own homes

Economy

- Local employment average salary levels are sufficient to allow residents to live and work locally, retaining our skilled workforce for the benefit of our local economy
- Skills and education opportunities for the young are promoted to allow them increased access to employment opportunities
- Enterprise and innovation is supported, helping businesses to adapt and survive and to sustain our local economies
- Inward investment is targeted to increase local opportunities and regeneration of our town centers and growth in business communities
- Tourism is increased through the showcasing of our local culture and heritage
- Growth in SMEs and business start-ups is stimulated through guidance and support, in partnership with our local partners
- Working with partners a wide range of local employment opportunities are generated for the future growth and prosperity of the area

Environment and sustainability

- Our natural environment will be protected and enhanced, with improved access to green open spaces and increased biodiversity
- In line with our climate action plan, our carbon footprint will be reduced , ensuring a sustainable future
- Environmental crime will be reduced, and enforcement will continue to be used to achieve this
- Green practices, such as energy provision and recycling , will be positively encouraged and usage increased across the district to help meet our net zero targets
- We will have robust plans in place to ensure the long-term sustainability of the council, maximising the use of our resources and assets to create community benefits
- The environmental impacts of growth are mitigated as far as practically possible

The key activities – how we are going to achieve our outcomes

Place and community

- Improve and enhance the future delivery of Customer Services
- Increase the digitalisation of services
- To ensure effective Strategic Communications across the District to keep residents informed of Council Services and Key Activities
- Delivery of a self-sustaining CCTV service for external organisations that supports community safety
- Investment in community facilities through the s106 process
- To prevent crime, tackle antisocial behaviour and support vulnerable victims
- Review and implement any emerging issues that come from government white papers, such as those on planning, levelling up and devolution and environment
- Implementation and monitoring of the adopted Harborough Local Plan (2011–2031)
- Planning decisions and planning enforcement are maintained in line with the adopted Harborough Local Plan (2011–2031).
- Continue the preparation of the next Local Plan, ensuring that design codes are developed to shape the district in line with our place shaping ambitions
- Planning Obligations policy preparation and ongoing monitoring
- Continue the Programme of review of the Council’s Conservation areas and preparation of the Local List of Heritage Assets.
- Support the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.

Healthy Lives

- Provide support for the most vulnerable in our communities, ensuring that they have suitable accommodation to safeguard them from harm and we provide high quality help and advice on housing options
- Agree and implement the Young Persons Strategy
- Implement the Health & Wellbeing Strategy that will empower people to take action to improve health and wellbeing for themselves and others through providing effective, timely and appropriate support where it is needed.
- Review the current leisure services provisions and service delivery options for the future, including preparations for any new contractual arrangements
- Implement measures to improve the living accommodation within the district
- Delivery of the agreed objectives and recommendations of the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Provision of a sustainable 24-hour Lifeline Service.

Economy

- Ensure that Harborough District's towns, villages and rural areas remain attractive and vibrant places to live, work, invest and visit.
- Ensure that we support new and existing businesses within Harborough District to be as successful as they can be.
- Ensure that Harborough District residents, (particularly young people), are able to gain access to the education, training and skills they require to obtain high quality employment and careers to help them meet their potential and live a fulfilling life.
- Review and revise the Economic Development strategy to ensure it is fit for purpose in the current climate

Environment and sustainability

- Reduce environmental crime through promoting a cleaner greener environment using education and enforcement
- Prepare for re-procurement of the Environmental Services Contract, ensuring that any new requirements from government are included in the specifications
- To produce a Welland Park Strategy and further develop a 10-year strategy for the use of all council owned parks and green spaces
- Provide Effective Local Air Quality Management
- All Council Activities will work towards being carbon neutral by 2030.
- Provide domestic energy efficiency advice and measures in partnership with external organisation and encourage households to participate in the Council's Collective Switching and Solar Together Initiatives.
- Develop and implement a Rural strategy for the district

Corporate Activities

- Revision of Commissioning Strategy and Procurement SORP
- Implement a new cloud-based Finance System
- Successful financial management including setting a sustainable budget, monitoring the budget on a quarterly basis and preparing statutory accounts to the specified deadlines.
- Explore opportunities to work collaboratively with others on the provision of services
- Identify and plan to address any inequalities and levelling up gaps within the district