

Appendix 3 - Corporate plan Consultation Summary as of January 2025

Online consultation

An online consultation was launched on the 26th November 24, on the councils website at [Corporate plan 2024 - consultation - Consultation - Harborough District Council](#). The online survey has been promoted via the District Councils social media channels, as well as within the resident newsletter. Other avenues that were utilized include the Community's Team Newsletter and throughout other networks such as the community safety partnership, health and wellbeing partnership, grant applicants and community groups.

Overall, there have only been 27 responses to the online consultation and a summary of the information gathered is presented in more detail in annex 1.

A summary is presented here:

	Critical outcome	% Agree (combined score strongly and agree)
CO1	Adequate supply of housing across tenures	51
O2	Local plan balancing growth, employment, transport and infrastructure	66
CO4	Communities managing and shaping places	79
CO8	Increasing activity through active travel and leisure	79
CO9	Improved public safety	79
CO10	Meeting physical and mental health needs	74
CO11	Natural environment protected and enhanced	80
CO12	Climate action plan and reducing carbon footprint	48
CO14	Green practices such as energy provision and recycling encouraged	67
CO 15	Plans in place for a sustainability Council	71

CO18	Young people's skills and education	78
CO19	Supporting enterprise and innovation	78
CO23	Generating employment opportunities	81

Parish Liaison Meeting

During the parish liaison meeting on the 13th January 2025, 18 parish councilors or parish meeting contacts attended the online meeting where the Corporate Plan and consultation was discussed, and a workshop run to establish their top priorities in terms of the critical outcomes. The top three critical outcomes they would like to see focused on in 2025/2027 are below;

CO1	Adequate supply of housing across tenures	4
CO2	Local plan balancing growth, employment, transport and infrastructure	4
CO4	Communities managing and shaping places	5
CO8	Increasing activity through active travel and leisure	2
CO9	Improved public safety	4
CO10	Meeting physical and mental health needs	4
CO11	Natural environment protected and enhanced	2
CO12	Climate action plan and reducing carbon footprint	2
CO14	Green practices such as energy provision and recycling encouraged	1
CO 15	Plans in place for a sustainability Council	0
CO18	Young people's skills and education	3
CO19	Supporting enterprise and innovation	2
CO23	Generating employment opportunities	2

Youth Council Consultation

On Thursday 30th January the council held its first Youth Council meeting. 25 Young people from across Harborough Secondary Schools took part in an interactive session about the corporate plan critical outcomes, to find out what areas are the most important to young people in the district,

10 key themes were presented to young people to discuss and stickers were used to identify the critical outcomes that are most important. The top 5 areas are (ranked highest to lowest)

CO18	Young people's skills and education	
CO12	Climate action plan and reducing carbon footprint	
CO10	Meeting physical and mental health needs	
CO11	Natural environment protected and enhanced	
CO1	Adequate supply of housing across tenures	

Conclusion

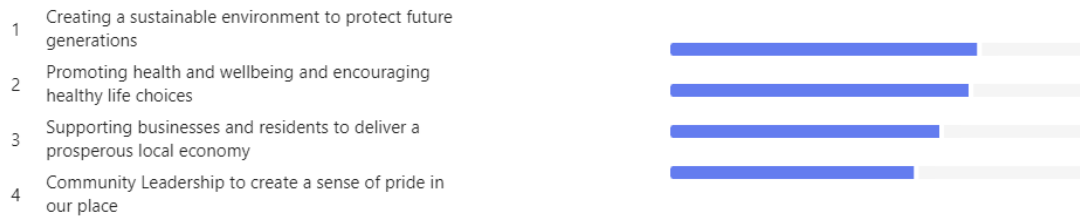
Whilst the top ranking critical outcome was slightly different between the different consultee groups there was a strong emphasis from both the online consultation and focus groups on the Environment, seeing the preservation of the area and tackling climate change as important and Skills and employment.

Annex 1

Priorities in rank order

3. Please rank the priorities (by using the up and down arrows) in the order of importance to you:

[More details](#)



Critical Outcomes

6. How much do you agree/disagree that these mid term critical outcomes are the most important to support the "Community Leadership to create a sense of pride in our place" priority? (found on page 21):

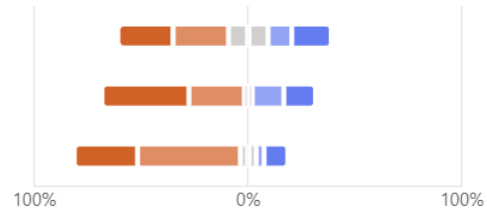
[More details](#)

● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Disagree ● Strongly disagree ● Neutral

There will be an adequate supply of housing to meet local needs across all tenures and price ranges, and reducing the potential fo...

Our local plan will ensure growth in the area is balanced with employment opportunities and transport and infrastructure nee...

Our local communities, the voluntary and charitable sector are more engaged and actively managing their own localities and...



7. How much do you agree/disagree that these mid term critical outcomes are the most important to support the "Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging a healthy life choice" priority? (found on page 22)

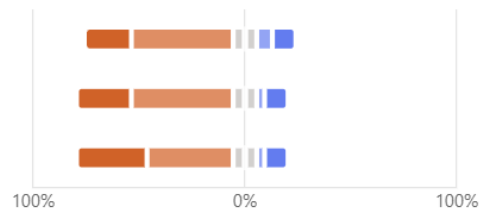
[More details](#)

● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Disagree ● Strongly disagree ● Neutral

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 crim...

Physical & mental health needs will be addressed to prevent crisis & support those that are the most vulnerable in our communitie...



8. How much do you agree/disagree that these mid term critical outcomes are the most important outcomes to support the "Creating a sustainable environment to protect the future" priority? (See page 23)

[More details](#)

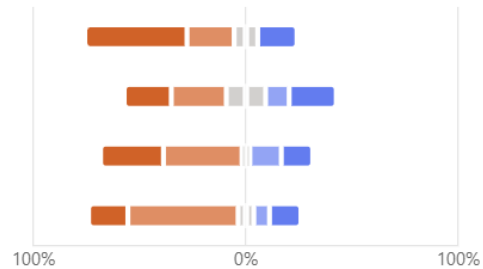
● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Disagree ● Strongly disagree ● Neutral

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

Green practices, such as energy provision and recycling, will be positively encouraged and usage increased across the district to...

We will have robust plans in place to ensure the long-term sustainability of the council, maximising the use of our resources...



9. How much do you agree/disagree that these mid term critical outcomes are the most important to the support the "Business and residents to deliver a prosperous economy" priority? (see page 24)

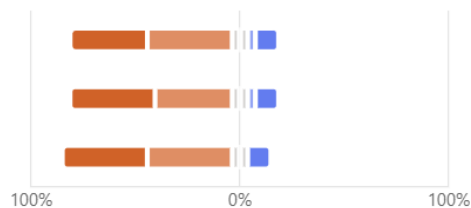
[More details](#)

● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neutral

Skills and education opportunities for the young are promoted to allow them increased access to employment opportunities

Enterprise and innovation are supported, helping businesses to adapt and survive and to sustain our local economies

Working with partners a wide range of local employment opportunities are generated for the future growth and prosperit...



Summary of comments on other areas of Focus for the Council : -

- Remove all aspects of the Net Zero/Climate Change scam and concentrate on real world issues
- Proper consideration for communities outside of Market Harborough. The plans rarely reflect the reality of what this council does.
- Spending council tax sensibly
- explore the creation of a Town council to strengthen the communities voice
- No housing in already over developed villages
- Address the issue that most residents feel the town is growing population wise but the infrastructure development is lagging behind. Roads and schools need investment, flooding is still a problem. How will these be addressed specifically rather than in very broad generalisations as expressed in this document?
- Kibworth By-Pass

- Limit on housebuilding to avoid areas being swamped and losing their individual identity
- Inclusion of the whole community, including those on the outskirts of the 'map', having a 'critical mass' centered around the town isolates and disengages those on the edges who increasingly rely on neighbouring districts for leisure, growth, health, exercise, etc
- Better transport
- Growth of the district requires match funding to support infrastructure development in lock-step. Currently, building on greenfield sites is continuing apace without necessary scaling up of the surrounding infrastructure.
- Transport and access to town centers from rural locations, including, but not limited to, on demand bus systems, increased parking access, improved roads
- Improving the efficiency of the Council. Ending homelessness.
- protecting heritage and landscape
- Avoid above inflation increases in Council Tax
- Support for older people in the district
- Further emphasis on Ecological Development
- A greater emphasis on local opinion in major planning decisions
- Health care provision and flood provision
- Ensure that the town is safe litter free and welcoming to visitors
- New housing must be supported by sufficient services in that locality e.g doctors, shops, schools, pubs / restaurants
- get on with delivering services - don't waste time on putting together these glossy brochures than men nothing to us ordinary people - cant imagine how much staff time and cost were put into this which could have been written on one page of A 4 and its very doubtful if even that was needed. Let's get back to true values and deliver the services the public pay you for

Scrutiny Committee feedback

A joint Overview and Scrutiny meeting was held on 22 January 2025 which reviewed the Draft Corporate Plan.

The approach to consultation was discussed considering only 27 responses were received and what could be done in future consultations to encourage greater participation. The Scrutiny meeting suggested having more opportunities to engage directly with residents in face-to-face settings. The survey questions also needed to be made easier to understand and respond to.

Other comments were that the document was “wordy” although the pictures and info graphics used this time were an improvement. The language also needed to be simplified so it could be more easily understood, focused more on what the council actually does and what residents' needs and priorities are. The Key activities and performance indicators that had previously been included will be shown in a separate Annual Delivery Plan to be agreed by Cabinet later in the year.

It was suggested that locations need to be added to the pictures so that it was clear where they were and how they related to the district. This will be done for the final version presented to Council.

Youth Council Feedback to be added