



Corporate Plan 2018/19 to 2020/21

(Three-year Plan, March 2019 Version)



Introduction

Welcome to Harborough District Council's Corporate Plan which sets out the Council's vision and its priorities for the District. Our Corporate Plan focuses on our aspirations for Harborough District in the next three years ahead. It also includes our key achievements for last year. It is based on information about the area and its residents 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.

Against a background of reduced Central Government Funding the Council has continued to deliver quality services across Harborough District including the development of significant plans and strategies, especially the Local Plan which will shape the future of our District for many years to come.

The Council continues to exercise efficient and effective budget management including the delivery of challenging efficiency targets. The Council's success in this area has recently been recognised in the National LGC Efficiency Awards where Harborough has been shortlisted for an Efficiency Award – the only District Council to be nominated in this category. Funding for Local Government continues to change fundamentally with the removal of the Central Government Grant by 2018 and the requirement in the future for councils to rely on income from Council Tax, Business Rate Growth, New Homes Bonus and charging for services. Across Local Government the transition to the new funding mix is challenging. We hope for more clarity from Central Government in the next year to plan for the future with some certainty.

Looking forward, the Council will continue to challenge itself on the way that services are accessed by residents and businesses, providing more services online, improvements in how to pay for services and allowing people to manage their accounts on line. The Council will continue to review services for further efficiencies and income opportunities to maintain the financial sustainability of the Council in the medium term.

Work is ongoing to make better use of our property assets, by continuing to redevelop Council-owned assets and sites. The Council has set out an ambitious Capital Programme including redevelopment of garage sites for housing, provision of new and refurbished Leisure Centres in Market Harborough and Lutterworth and provision of grow on space for small and medium enterprises building on the success of the Harborough Innovation Centre. This has created a vital source of revenue benefitting Council services and taxpayers as a whole.



Neil Bannister
Leader
Harborough District Council



Beverley Jolly
Joint Chief Executive



Norman Proudfoot
Joint Chief Executive

Welcome to Harborough District



Foxton Locks



Broughton Astley



Market Harborough



Lutterworth

Harborough District, situated in the heart of the Welland Valley in rural South Leicestershire, is well known for its rolling countryside, picturesque villages, historical market towns and unique independent shops. The town of Market Harborough is home to the award-winning Harborough Market.

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 rates, low unemployment, high owner-occupancy, high skills levels and above average earnings. It has good schools, and accessibility to larger town and cities, the M1 motorway and direct rail links to London.

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

Harborough District has a high number of home-based businesses supported by the recent investment by the Council in Superfast Broadband.

The District retains a strong sense of heritage and character, boasting a number of tourist attractions including Foxton Locks which is 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.

Our Vision

- To secure a prosperous future for the people of Harborough District

Our Priorities

- **The Place:** An enterprising, vibrant place
- **The People:** A healthy, inclusive and engaged community
- **Your Council:** Innovative, proactive and efficient



Market Harborough



Lutterworth



Broughton Astley



Kibworth

Key achievements for 2018 – 2019

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

We have...

- Improved play areas for young people across the district through installing £250K of play equipment, including a specialist sensory play facility.
- Supported sporting activities across the district at which there were over 25,000 attendances.
- Marked the centenary of WWI with the installation of silhouettes, benches and street names to honour local service men.
- Organised the unveiling of a plaque for 'forgotten' war hero Private Coleman.
- Celebrated the 100-year anniversary of votes for woman through the commissioning of art work and other activities across the district.
- Improved local community infrastructure and facilities across the district by awarding almost £70K of Section 106 grants.
- Supported the national scheme to provide a home for refugees fleeing war-torn Syria.
- Worked with parishes to develop Neighbourhood Plans, eight of which went to neighbourhood referendum.



Marking the centenary of WWI



Community Grants




Special ceremony for Private Coleman

Did you know?

You can keep in touch with the Council and find out about our activities and services:

Sign up to our residents' newsletter www.harborough.gov.uk/newsletter

Follow us on social media  @harboroughdc

 @harborough.council

Key achievements for 2018 – 2019

Enable public services which are effective and deliver value for money

We have...

- Taken part in an LGA Peer Challenge which found that the Council is able to continue to deliver high quality services by understanding the community, working with partners and having good business intelligence.
- Made efficient use of unutilised land to provide additional affordable homes across the district.
- Successfully launched the Harborough District Community Lottery with around 50 good causes benefitting from it.
- Supported a number of local campaigns and initiatives including: rural policing, motor neurone disease, national emergency services day, rail improvements and plastic reduction.
- Joined in partnership with two other local authorities to proactively understand the needs of the Armed Forces personnel and provide support where required.
- Been shortlisted in two categories in the Leicestershire Tourism and Hospitality Awards 2018.

Did you know?

Over £30K will be given to good causes across the district, through our Harborough Community Lottery each year. Tickets can be purchased at:

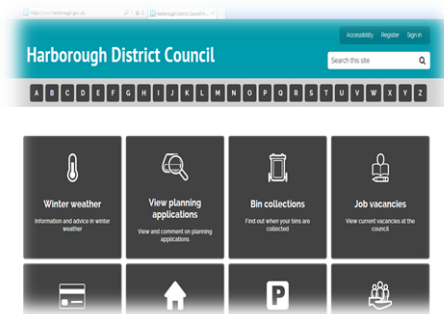
<https://www.harborough.gov.uk/harboroughlotto>



Supporting good causes



Providing affordable homes



Accessing services 24/7

Key achievements for 2018 – 2019

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

We have...

- Successfully obtained funding from the ERDF and LLEP for the Grow on Space which demonstrates our support to the economy and growth across the district for our business community.
- Produced a Local Plan which was subject to public consultation.
- Raised awareness of how to report incidents of fly-tipping which has enabled us to undertake effective enforcement actions across the district.
- Worked hard to ensure the interests and needs of our residents were captured to influence the Strategic Growth Plan.
- Ensured continued provision of leisure facilities.
- Facilitated events for local businesses with MPs to ensure that awareness of local issues is raised at national level.
- Offered training and support to local retailers around digital marketing and social media opportunities.
- Organised a range of community events which have provided support to local businesses and promoted the district as a tourism destination.



Supporting businesses



Launched the LoyalFree App



Organising community events

Did you know?

We recently introduced the LoyalFree app to support local business and provide discount for shoppers. Download the app here: www.loyalfree.co.uk/download

Our Priorities for 2018/19 to 2020/21

The Place: An enterprising, vibrant place

We will...

- Continue to secure and manage future development across the district through the adoption and implementation of the Local Plan.
- Provide an effective, integrated and accessible planning service.
- Work with communities to identify and manage environmental concerns such as street cleansing, air quality and carbon reduction measures.
- Promote the vibrancy of the district's two market towns and encourage sustainable communities across the district.
- Promote community safety through the Community Safety Partnership.
- Encourage the entrepreneurial small and medium enterprise economy through the Harborough Innovation Centre, Grow on Space and business support frameworks.
- Allocate sufficient land to meet forecasted employment need across a range of employment sectors.
- Provide effective housing, housing advice and prevent homelessness.
- Promote Harborough district as a tourism destination.
- Promote local events and effective event management across the district.



Supporting community initiatives



Supporting small and medium sized businesses



Promoting tourism across the district



Managing future development

Our Priorities for 2018/19 to 2020/21

The People: A healthy, inclusive and engaged community

We will...

- Improve the customer experience including wider availability of 24/7 on-line services.
- Procure new and refurbished leisure facilities and their management for the district's future use.
- Deliver and commission a range of sport and physical activities through securing funding from the Public Health Service and other sources.
- Encourage older and vulnerable people to remain independent in their own homes through the county-wide Lightbulb scheme.
- Promote localism through the neighbourhood planning process.
- Enable and promote the voluntary sector to support older and vulnerable people.
- Regularly seek community and business views through consultation.
- Provide a 24-hour Lifeline Service.
- Work with parishes and communities in identifying and evidencing local infrastructure needs.



Supporting neighbourhood planning



Supporting independent living



Providing online services for our customers



Offering support to vulnerable

Our Priorities for 2018/19 to 2020/21

Your Council: innovative, proactive and efficient

We will...

- Develop business cases to deliver cost savings and income generation proposals (including capital investment options).
- Maximise the benefit from management information systems to inform priorities and service delivery.
- Improve effectiveness of external communications through implementation of a revised strategic communications framework and delivery model.
- Review existing and proposed partnership arrangements to ensure effective governance and transparency.
- Drive continuous improvement through a programme of activity reviews.
- Implement a property investment strategy to contribute to financial sustainability in the future.



Harborough District Council



Continually reviewing activities



Harborough District Council's headquarters

Elected members & political management

We have 37 councillors who represent 25 wards.

The **Conservative** group, led by Cllr Neil Bannister, has the majority with 28 seats.

The **Liberal Democrats**, led by Cllr Phil Knowles, have 9 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 Jonathan Bateman 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 www.harborough.gov.uk/councillors</p>		



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 0345 300 3283

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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: 07860 041 908

Visit us at:

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www.harborough.gov.uk