

**Harborough District Council**  
**Climate Local**  
**Draft Annual Progress report 2015**

## **1. Introduction**

Harborough District Council decided to sign up to Climate Local in April 2013. The council then worked to put in place the resources to develop a local action plan. The action plan was ratified by full council in July 2015. This report, the first annual report of progress on the action plan, highlights the achievements to the end of 2015.

### **1.1 Where we are**

Harborough District covers an area of 238 square miles of rural south and east Leicestershire. It is within the East Midlands Region, bordering Warwickshire to the west, Northamptonshire to the south and Rutland to the east. The District's population of 85,282 (Census 2011) is split between the two market towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth (37%), large villages of Broughton Astley, Great Glen, the Kibworths and Fleckney (27%) and Bushby, Thurnby and Scraftoft part of Leicester's Principal Urban Area (6%). The remaining 30% of the District's population live in the smaller rural settlements, 71 of which have a population of less than 500.

### **1.2 Carbon emissions**

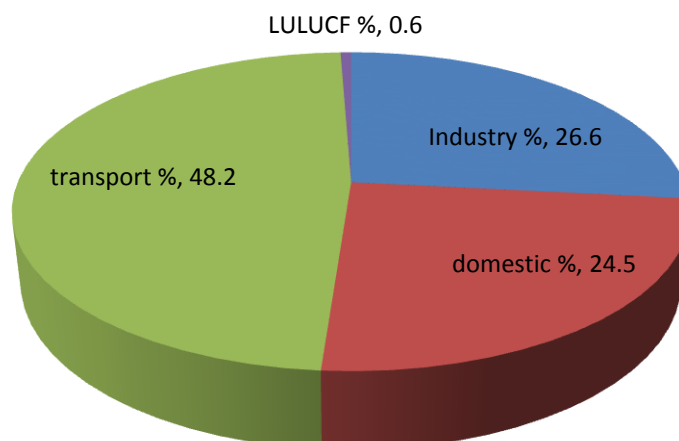
The emissions data for Harborough District for 2014 is the most recent data available for monitoring emissions<sup>1</sup>. Road transport remains the largest source of emissions, accounting for over 48% of the overall emissions from the district. Transport has shown a steadily increasing proportion of the total emissions. Overall emissions have decreased from 812.0 tonnes in 2005 to 678.3 tonnes in 2014. The emissions in 2014 have continued to drop.

Harborough, with per capita emissions of 7.7 tonnes, ranks second highest in Leicestershire. The Leicestershire average per capita measurement is significantly lower at 7.0 tonnes and the average for England is lower again at 6.0 tonnes, with UK average at 6.3 tonnes. The table below shows the emissions per capita for each of the sectors, from 2005 to 2014 (the latest date for which figures are available). Emissions from all sectors have fallen since 2005.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>

## Harborough District emissions by sector 2014



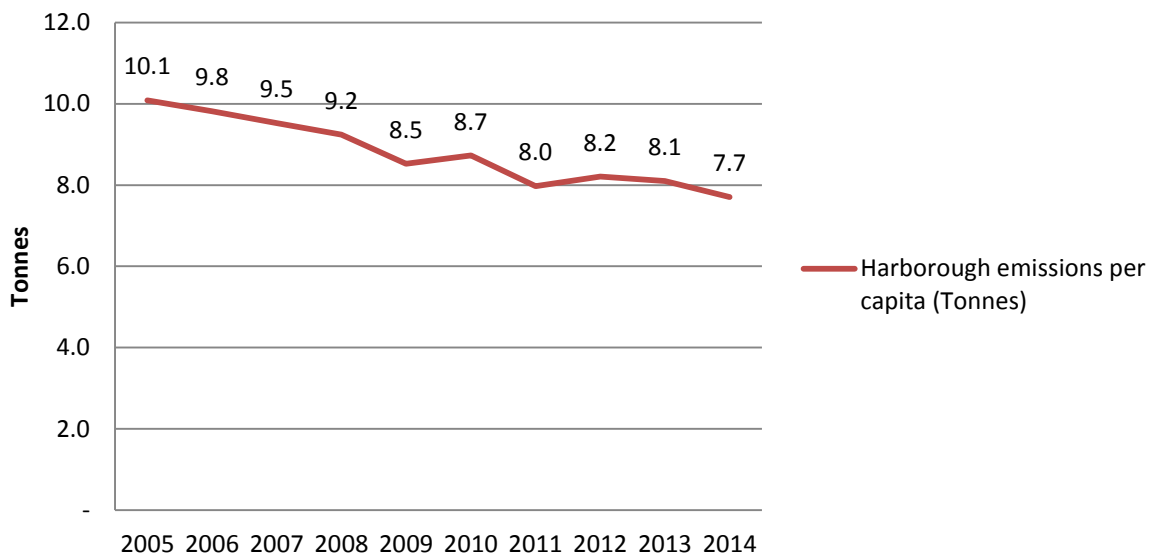
**Figure 1 Harborough District Emissions by Sector 2014**

Year	Industrial and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Total
2005	2.7	2.7	4.7	10.1
2006	2.6	2.7	4.5	9.8
2007	2.4	2.6	4.5	9.5
2008	2.5	2.6	4.2	9.2
2009	2.2	2.4	3.8	8.5
2010	2.3	2.5	3.8	8.7
2011	2.0	2.2	3.7	8.0
2012	2.2	2.3	3.6	8.2
2013	2.1	2.3	3.7	8.1
2014	2.1	1.9	3.7	7.7

**Table 1: Harborough District CO<sub>2</sub> emission per capita by sector 2005 to 2014<sup>2</sup>**  
(Source <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>)

<sup>2</sup> There are some rounding errors as the land use contribution is not included in Table 1

## Harborough district carbon emissions per capita (Tonnes) 2005 to 2014



**Figure 2 Harborough District Per Capita total emissions 2005 to 2013** (Source <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>)

### 1.3 Domestic Energy Consumption

Based on data from Department of Energy and Climate Change the average domestic energy consumption across the district has reduced year on year. This trend is shown both for electricity consumption and gas consumption.

Year	Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh)	Average domestic electricity consumption per household (kWh)
2005	5223	NA
2006	5087	NA
2007	5029	NA
2008	4804	NA
2009	4707	NA
2010	4716	NA
2011	4660	NA
2012	4612	NA
2013	4495	4600
2014	4472	4505

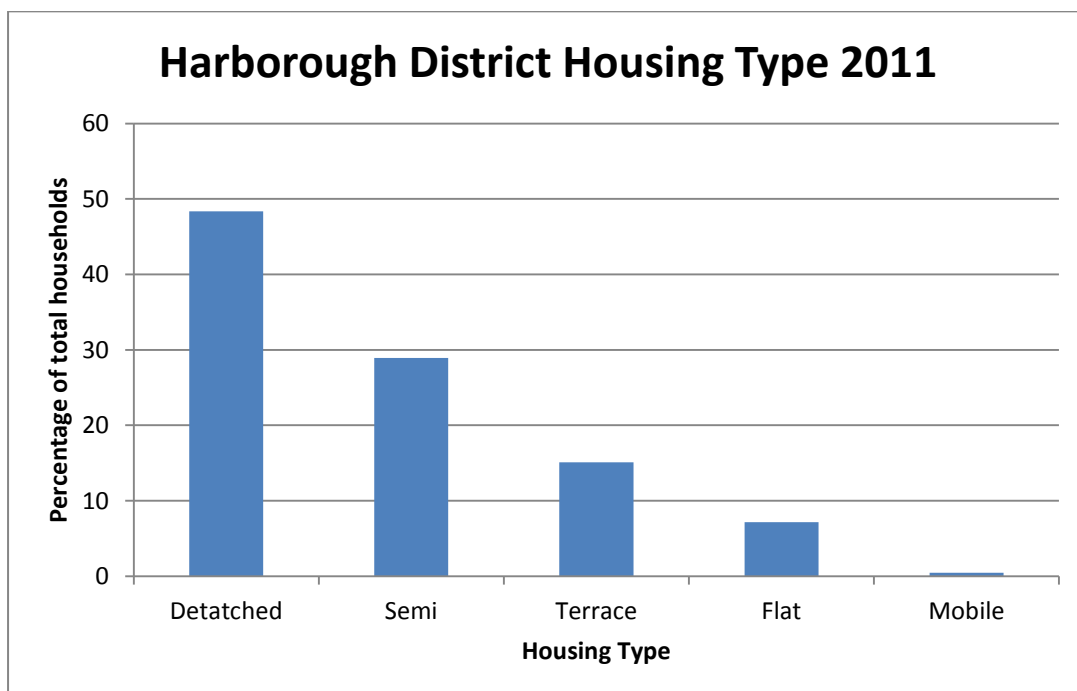
**Table 2: Harborough District Domestic Electricity Consumption (Source <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-to-2011> )**

Year	Mean domestic gas consumption (kWh)
2005	21513
2006	20524
2007	19866
2008	19170
2009	17590
2010	17468
2011	16447
2012	16425
2013	16001
2014	15561

**Table 3: Harborough District Domestic Gas Consumption (Source <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/gas-sales-and-numbers-of-customers-by-region-and-local-authority>)**

This reduction is taking place, in spite of an increase in number of households and appliances, which suggests significant improvements in energy efficiency.

## 1.4 Housing

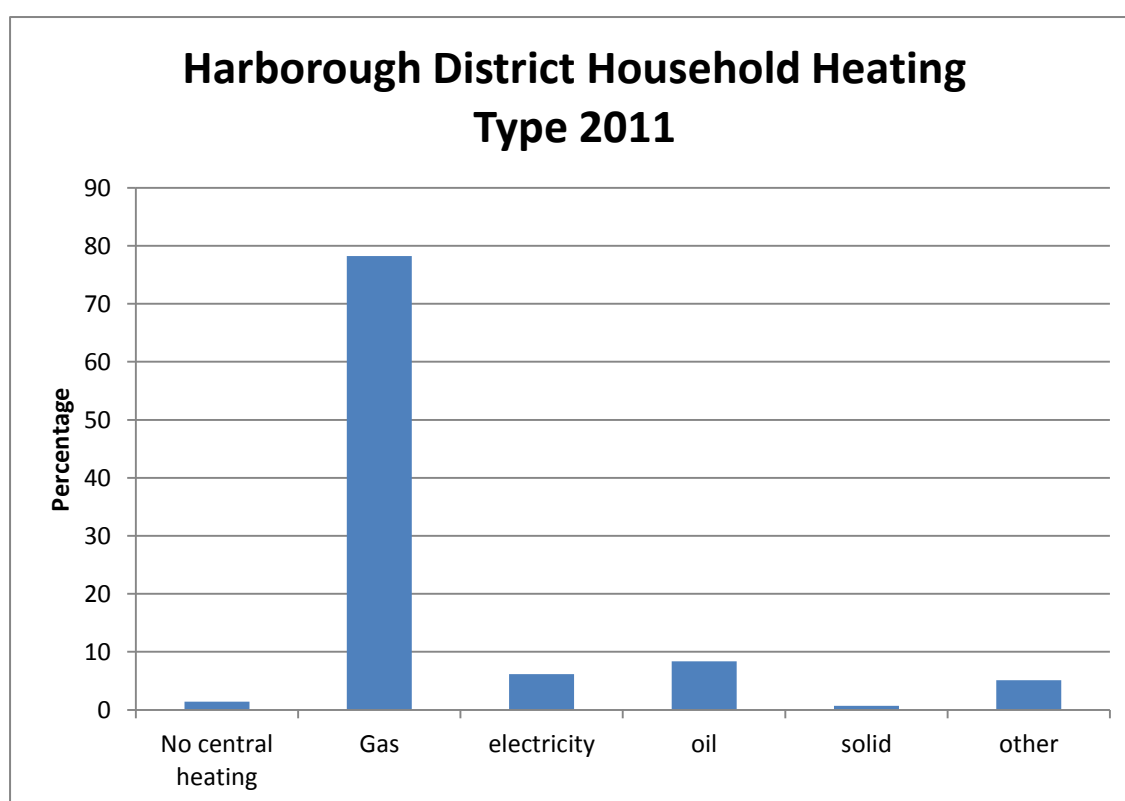


**Figure 3: Distribution of housing types across Harborough District 2011 (Source Census 2011)**

Harborough District has a very high proportion of detached homes, almost 50%. Many of the homes are also of older construction, as identified in the Housing Survey completed in 2010.

In addition there are a large number of homes that rely on oil or electricity for their heating needs. Over 20% of homes have not got gas central heating. This is due to the rural nature of the district, with many villages having little or no access to the national gas grid.

Gas remains the cheapest fuel for heating homes and lack of access to gas can increase the risk of fuel poverty.



## 1.6 Renewable Energy

There are a number of renewable energy installations across Harborough District. There are two commercial wind farms, Low Spinney 8MW and Swinford at 22MW. In addition there are a number of smaller on farm turbines that contribute a further 1,154kW of installed capacity.

There are three field based solar installations with planning permission. A number of roof based systems are also in place, including an installation on the Market Hall, which was commissioned in August 2015. The total installed capacity is 6,432 kW, of which 5,126 is domestic.

There is also some anaerobic digestion (499 kW) and landfill gas. A feasibility study has just completed for a new anaerobic digester. There is no hydropower capacity.

## **2. What we have achieved so far**

This is the first progress report since formally adopting the Climate Local Action Plan in July 2015. This report gives an overview of the achievements since the initial agreement to sign up to Climate Local in April 2013. There are detailed tables of the progress against each commitment included as Appendix A. The headline achievements are described under two main areas of work: low carbon pathways and ensuring our Communities and Places are resilient to the possible impacts of climate change.

### **2.1 Low Carbon Pathways**

The Environment Co-ordinator post enables climate change projects to be co-ordinated across the whole council. The Environment Portfolio holder is the lead member, but there is recognition that climate change is important in other areas too, especially planning, assets and health and wellbeing.

There has been an improved understanding of our corporate emissions. In 2013 the Symington Building, the main council offices, was completely refurbished. The Grade II listed corset factory building was sympathetically treated to maintain the historic features, but also improve the energy efficiency. The building received an EPC of B, which is an achievement for a building of this type.

The emissions inventory has also indicated where further savings are possible. The Market Hall building has had a solar photovoltaic array installed on its south facing roof in summer of 2015 and new LED lights in the autumn. Both of these measures are expected to reduce emissions and save money for the council. The monitoring of quarterly electricity and gas readings is ensuring that performance is being monitored. The solar photovoltaics are a good sign of commitment to the district's residents and more information on the emissions is available on the newly configured website.

Harborough District Council committed to helping our residents to reduce their own emissions. This has been challenging given the many changes to the domestic energy efficiency market. However, the council has been able to work with the



Lottery funded Sustainable Harborough Challenge. Working together with Seven Locks Housing, the main housing association in the district and the organisation that took over the district own housing stock, a 1950s house has been completely refurbished to be energy efficient and include renewable energy technologies. The family who moved in have provided blog posts of their experience and the home has formed the basis for a green open homes event. The event is in its third year and numbers are growing annually. The event has also spread from Market Harborough out to the villages. Harborough District council are also working in partnership with other Leicestershire councils on a project to help people with underlying health conditions aggravated by cold homes. This project can provide new heating systems for people whose heating is not working well.

Harborough District Council committed to helping businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. In partnership with Sustainable Harborough a business energy group has been established. They have a update on the latest legislation and get a chance to share good practice. The events have been well attended and there are energy services companies in the area that have found it helpful to network. Sustainable Harborough also supported some best practice case studies and are hoping to build on this in engaging further with businesses.

The importance of communities taking charge of their own energy future has been recognised as an important area to act. A community energy company Harborough Energy has been set up. It is a Community Investment Company. Some initial projects are in the pipeline.

## **2.2 Ensuring our Communities and Places are resilient to the possible impacts of climate change**

In addition to actions to reduce emissions, there has also been action to ensure that our communities are prepared for climate change. Working with the Resilience forum Harborough District Council has worked with parishes to support them in drawing up resilience plans. A number of parishes already have emergency plans in place. A number of training sessions have taken place to help parishes understand the importance of emergency planning

The new green space strategy has undergone consultation and been published. As well as identifying important green space this also incorporates the approach of Harborough District Council in encouraging local communities to get involved in the management of their own greenspace.

In a similar way Harborough district council is promoting resilience to flooding potential. A Flood fair was held in Market Harborough in 2014 with partners from Leicestershire County council, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water. The flood fair showcased many of the alternative methods of making properties more resilient, including a display of flood doors and flood bricks. This followed significant flooding in Market Harborough town centre due surface water flooding caused by intense rainfall.

Harborough District Council is also working with the Catchment Partnerships for the Soar and Welland rivers. The Welland River has undergone a very successful naturalisation project in Market Harborough, which has improved the river in many ways. A new low flow channel has been developed, along with riverside planting that improves water quality and biodiversity. Local people have enjoyed the benefits of a more attractive riverside in the town. On the Soar, the Willow brook project is engaging with rural and urban communities to improve the brook, which joins the Soar in Leicester. A number of communities are setting up WatersideCare groups to look after their brook. In addition there has been work with farmers to reduce the run-off from land and reduce the leakage from septic tanks. The renowned Allerton project has been showcasing good practice on water friendly farming <http://www.gwct.org.uk/allerton/>.

### **3. Next Steps**

In the next year Harborough District Council are committed to continuing to deliver on their Climate Local commitments. The particular focus for action includes better management of assets, improving domestic energy efficiency and incorporating Climate Local into the emerging Local Plan.

## Harborough District Climate Local Update on Action

### Climate Local Commitments

#### Low carbon pathways

<b>Commitment:</b> Demonstrate political and corporate commitment to acting on climate change.		
<b>Justification:</b> Action on climate change helps the council deliver its corporate goals and Harborough DC wishes to show leadership to residents and businesses within the borough (Corporate Priority CO1).		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Lead Member to be appointed and staff resource allocated	Environment Co-ordinator appointed	A new post of Environment Co-ordinator was created and appointed in January 2014. The Environment Portfolio holder has responsibility for Climate Change, although the cross cutting nature is recognised and the Environment Co-ordinator sits in strategic planning team and works closely with Regulatory services and health and wellbeing partnership.
Specific information on website	Ongoing – incorporated in new website	A new corporate website was launched in 2014. Climate change is a specific area and is being continually developed.
Regular information on website including information on carbon emissions in the borough	DECC carbon data and other information reported locally	An annual inventory of emissions for financial years 2013/2014 and 2014/15 has been completed and placed on website. Quarterly corporate gas and electricity usage is now monitored

<b>Commitment:</b> Manage our assets in a resource efficient manner.		
<b>Justification:</b> The council is committed to providing the public services that are value for money. Reducing waste and using energy efficiently are crucial to delivering on this priority (Corporate Priority CO5 and CO6)		
<b>Specific action(s)</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Continue to upgrade council owned buildings to reduce energy use, water use and waste created.	Monitor energy usage and water and waste data where available	Quarterly gas and electricity consumption is now reported. Photovoltaic cells have been installed on the Market Hall in summer of 2015. Further lighting improvements are also underway in the Market Hall. The reduction in electricity usage is already noticeable. Other buildings are being assessed.
Encourage staff to use resources efficiently through targeted campaigns, based on monitored data	Specific events and programmes	The first year of quarterly data will be available in 2016. This will inform a staff engagement project.
Promote sustainable transport through the green travel plan	Monitor transport modes	Car sharing information has been made available on the website. A bike purchase scheme is being set up. Bike to work week was promoted with an offer of a free healthy breakfast.

**Commitment:** Work with households to promote the uptake of energy efficiency measures to reduce household carbon footprints and alleviate fuel poverty

**Justification:** Harborough DC is committed to working with communities to develop places where people wish to live and to support the vulnerable within those communities. Reducing fuel bills and helping communities be more environmentally conscious is vital to delivering our priorities (Corporate Priorities CO1, CO4, CO11 and CO12 also actions identified in HECA report and Leicestershire Carbon Reduction Strategy).

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Work with partners to encourage the uptake of all schemes for improving energy efficiency in homes of all tenancies	<p>Contribute to the Leicestershire carbon reduction target for housing stock (Proportion of 75K tonnes).</p> <p>Record Number of Measures installed</p>	Sustainable Harborough Project, with Seven Locks Housing and HDC refurbished a home as energy efficient. The family that moved in have blogged about energy improvements. This dwelling has formed the basis for a new annual green homes open day, first held in 2014. In addition a HDC project aimed at improving energy efficiency at parish level is underway. This will enable energy efficiency measures to be developed by area and will target rural areas.
Work with partners to access health funding to support vulnerable people in fuel poverty	Access funding maintain and develop programmes	Leicestershire CC and districts together with the Papworth Trust and NEA have a joint project to target energy efficiency improvements for the most vulnerable householder, who are in fuel poverty and at risk of illness.
Develop programmes with partners for rural areas, especially off gas.	Develop projects with funding via the Local economic partnership via	Rural energy efficiency will be targeted by the parish energy efficiency project. Working with Sustainable Harborough, renewable heat opportunities in off-gas

	Leicestershire Together	areas will be investigated.
Work with partners to encourage residents across the borough to reduce their own carbon footprint.	Sustainable Harborough project will promote and engage residents in and around Market Harborough including through ECO house project	Sustainable Harborough are developing a local project

**Commitment:** Support local businesses to become more resource efficient and encourage businesses in the low carbon/ green technology sector

**Justification:** Harborough District Council is committed to supporting business in the district. Reducing costs is vital for all business. The green technology sector is growing rapidly and could be an important growth area in the district (corporate Priorities CO1, CO4 and CO9). The Leicestershire Carbon Reduction Strategy aims to reduce carbon emissions from business by 90k tonnes across the county.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Support development of an Business Resource Club in Market Harborough	Waste and energy advice offered	Sustainable Harborough has initiated a business energy group. Meetings take place quarterly and a number of local businesses host a meeting to hear about new legislation and share good practice. Funding has been brought in to do energy audits for a local business and produce good practice guidance  HDC provide a business waste recycling service, which is well used by local businesses.
Promote green travel plans via planning	Green Travel Plans required for all business development	Core strategy policy requires all large business development sites to incorporate green travel plans.
Promote local food economy with partners	In conjunction with Sustainable Harborough - Food forum established	Sustainable Harborough have led on developing a food forum, producing a local food map and supporting development of a local food label.

**Commitment:** Support communities to take advantage of the financial opportunities offered by community energy projects.

**Justification:** Harborough DC is committed to working with communities to develop places where people wish to live. Supporting communities to be more resilient to economic change is an important part of this, particularly encouraging an entrepreneurial approach to energy. (Corporate Priorities CO1, CO4, CO11 and CO12 also actions identified in HECA report and Leicestershire Carbon Reduction Strategy).

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Develop community renewable energy project in District	Feasibility study for community owned PV on Market Hall completed	Feasibility study for market hall completed summer 2014. HDC decided to progress the project alone. It is now generating. Sustainable Harborough have initiated a new community owned cooperative, Harborough Energy. The first projects have been identified and a share offer has been fully subscribed. Projects should go forward in 2016.
Promote community owned renewable energy through neighbourhood plans	Renewable energy included in emerging neighbourhood plans	Communities that are progressing Neighbourhood Plans are supported by HDC. Advice on climate change is given as required. There are 27 Neighbourhood plans in preparation and 2 “made” plans in the district
Promote awareness of Renewable Heat Initiative opportunities in off-gas areas	Information at Parish Engagement Event	Parishes have been initially engaged in an energy efficiency project for rural areas. Where opportunities arise, renewable heat will be considered. This work will continue into 2016



## Climate Local Commitments

### Ensuring our Communities and Places are resilient to the possible impacts of climate change

<b>Commitment:</b> Encourage Communities to build their resilience to climate change		
<b>Justification:</b> Harborough District Council recognises that we cannot avoid the impacts of climate change, so we must build resilience. Harborough District Council recognise the distress that can be caused by weather related risks and also the costs to homes and businesses that can be incurred. Building resilience will support better places. (Corporate Priority CO4 and CO5)		
<b>Specific action(s)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Include climate adaptation in neighbourhood plans, especially flood resilience, but policies for well designed adaptive buildings and multifunctional green space.	Information and guidance available throughout neighbourhood planning process	Communities that are engaged in Neighbourhood Plans are supported by HDC staff and advised where appropriate on climate change adaptation. Many seek higher standards for SUDS
Incorporate specific risks within parish emergency plans	Information for parishes at parish engagement event. Parishes engaged with directly	HDC and the resilience forum have worked with a number of parishes on preparing emergency plans. Good practice guidance has been included and members of parish councils have taken part in simulation emergency events for training. There are 23 parish councils engaged, with 11 completed plans.
Encourage Community management of green space to maintain multifunctional value for leisure, water management, possible food	Parishes supported to take over green space Green space plan for major development in	HDC has developed a greenspace strategy that feeds into the local plan. HDC is encouraging local parishes to be involved in local green space management. Many parishes have taken control of the management of green

and wood supplies	Market Harborough developed	space.  Sustainable Harborough is developing community food growing initiatives.
Promote flood protection for at risk business and homes.	Reduced risk of financial loss	Market Harborough experienced bad flooding in the summer of 2013 following an intense period of rainfall. Flood Fair held in September 2014, in Market Harborough to highlight various flood resilient measures. The EA, Local Flood Authority, HDC and water companies attended. Additional work has been completed by Anglian Water to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water in Market Harborough Town centre

**Commitment: Promote good water management across the district**

**Justification:** Rivers are an important aspect of a place and can contribute to the attractiveness and biodiversity of a place. Harborough District Council recognises the importance of working with partners to maintain rivers and waterways and promote sustainable drainage. (Corporate Priorities CO1, CO2, CO3 and CO5)

Specific action(s) <sup>ii</sup>	Measure	Progress
Support Welland River Restoration project	Improved river attractiveness, enhancing the town. Improved biodiversity	The river Welland has undergone a re-naturalisation project, returning the river to a smaller channel. This has also delivered additional biodiversity gains. Initial reports indicate a water quality improvement through Market Harborough.
Promote sustainable drainage systems within local plan and neighbourhood plans for new developments	No increase in flood risk from new development  Enhanced green infrastructure	Sustainable drainage is required in new development through planning. New studies have been completed to help understand the flood risk issue and ensure SUDS are embedded in the emerging local plan.
Support partners working with landowners to improve water quality of rivers	Improved biodiversity	HDC engages with the Welland Catchment Partnership and the Soar Catchment Partnership. Work on the Welland has included a range of work rural pollution, including septic tanks. In the Soar Catchment work is ongoing to improve the storage of water in the rural catchment working with landowners and communities. Communities have been approached to become Water Care groups.

<b>Commitment:</b> Encourage climate resilient design		
<b>Justification:</b> Harborough District Council recognises that good quality buildings are essential for the wellbeing of residents. Climate change may mean that some buildings are not fit for purpose. As the local planning authority Harborough District Council recognises it has an important role in future-proofing development (Corporate Priorities CO1 and C11).		
<b>Specific action(s)<sup>iii</sup></b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Promotion of climate resilient buildings through the revised Local Plan policy	Robust policy in Local Plan, supporting development.	Evidence is being gathered to inform the local plan policy, particularly given the revoking of the code for sustainable homes.
Working with partners to bring forward local exemplars, including ECO House with Seven Locks Housing Association.	Families engaged in adapting to climate change in house and garden	The blog from the refurbished ECO house has identified the benefits of energy efficient homes. The growing Green Homes open day has identified more exemplars
Investigating the development of low carbon and resilient community buildings with partners	New exemplar buildings developed  Local business engaged	Opportunities for improvements in village halls are being investigated as part of the community energy brief.

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