

Harborough District Council

Report to the Cabinet Meeting of 10th October 2022



Title:	Young Person Opportunities Plan 2023-28
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	Cabinet Only - Yes
Report Author:	Jacqui Evans – Director of Communities and Wellbeing
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Simon Whelband, Wellbeing, Communities & Housing
Appendices:	Appendix A – Young Persons Opportunities Plan 2023-2028 Appendix B – Young Persons Action Plan Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment

Executive Summary

This report presents the new Young Person Opportunities Plan 2023-28, the purpose of which is to raise awareness of, and access to, opportunities for 15–34-year-old in the district of Harborough such as employment and housing. It aims to explore how we can retain and attract more young people to live, work and learn in the district. And how we can support our young people to engage with the Council to ensure that their issues are considered throughout our service delivery and policy development.

Recommendations

- **To approve the Young Person Opportunities Plan 2023-28 which sets the aims and objectives for support young people across the district for the next 5 years.**

Reasons for Recommendations

Approval of the Young Person Opportunities Plan 2023-28 will ensure we can support our young people to engage with the Council to ensure that their issues are considered throughout our service delivery and policy development.

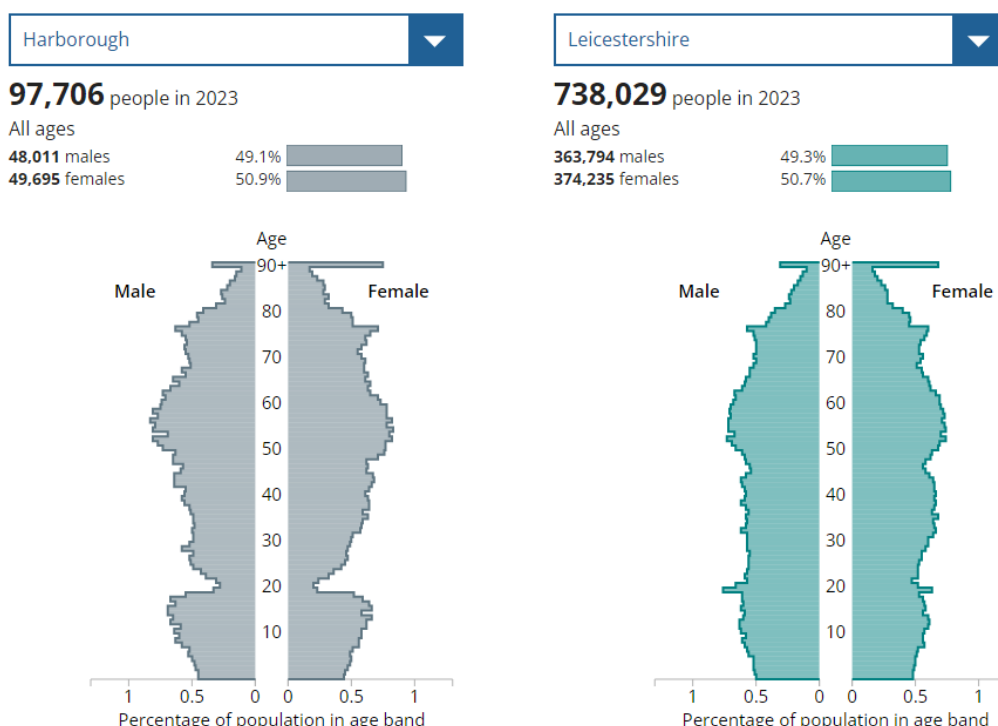
1. Purpose of Report

To agree the new Young Person Opportunities Plan 2023-28, which aligns to the Council's key Corporate Priorities, as outlined in the Corporate Plan, as well as outlining three overarching strategic priorities for young people of the Harborough district between 2023 / 28.

2. Background



- 2.1 In the Corporate Delivery Plan for 2021/22, Harborough District Council identified the need for a “fit-for-purpose strategy to engage with young people to understand their needs specifically around skills, employment options and housing”.
- 2.2 The 12-month project is funded by Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) to understand the key issues faced by young people through Covid recovery via the implementation of a Young Persons Officer.
- 2.3 The project started identifying youth services across the county to understand existing provision and their approaches to engaging young people. This highlighted gaps in district wide provision, particularly for those from harder to reach, marginalised and minority groups.
- 2.4 A review of the Council’s approach to youth engagement was conducted. Working across different departments, gaps were identified in our own service development and delivery.
- 2.5 The district of Harborough is continually growing its popularity as a desirable rural location, yet faces a number of key challenges in the growth and retention in populations of young people aged 15 – 34.
- 2.6 The following population projection for 2023, depicts the trends in Harborough’s (left / grey) young people leaving and returning to the district in comparison to Leicestershire as a whole (right / green). It is perceived that this is due to a lack of local opportunities surrounding education, employment and engagement, particularly between the ages of 18 – 34, contributing to outward migration.



*ONS Subnational Population Projections for Harborough (based on 2018 data)

3. Details

3.1 Through delivery of this Young Person Opportunities Plan, we are aiming to:

- Raise awareness of, and access to, opportunities linked to learning, employment and housing options for 15–34-year-olds in the district of Harborough.
- Retain and attract more young people to live, work and learn in the district.
- Support our young people to engage with the Council to ensure that their issues are considered throughout our service delivery and policy development.

3.2 This will be achieved by focusing on three overarching strategic priorities:

1. Encourage and support skills, training and employment opportunities within the district for young people.
2. Increase awareness and availability of suitable and affordable housing for young people.
3. Ensure young people are consulted on matters directly impacting their futures.

3.3 To bridge the gap of inequality in opportunity and to strengthen social fabric for our young people, the following key factors require focus:

- A rapidly rising cost of living not reflected in local wages for young people
- Limited Post-16, further or higher education opportunities within the district, contributing to outward migration
- Some of the highest housing costs in the country
- Insufficient amounts of suitable and affordable housing to meet young peoples' needs
- Limited opportunities for young people to directly and effectively engage in shaping their communities

4. Implications of Decisions

4.1. Corporate Priorities

4.1.1. The Opportunities Plan will contribute towards the delivery of 2 of the 4 key Corporate Priorities:

- i. Promoting health & wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices.
- ii. Community Leadership to create a sense of pride in our place.

4.2. Financial

4.2.1 In light of financial challenges and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, this Opportunities Plan will be implemented into existing workstreams within the Council's current service delivery.

4.2.2 This Young Person Opportunities Plan will align with other key pieces of work within the Council, such as:

- HDC Corporate Plan
- Rural Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Engagement Strategy
- Harborough Community Safety Partnership Three Year Plan
- Housing Strategy

4.3. Legal

4.3.1 The Housing Act 2004, Armed Forces Act 2021, the Care Act 2014 and the Children Act 1989 will continue to inform housing processes for eligible populations. Other laws around the safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults also dictate output.

4.3.2 The Equality Act 2010 ensures that people with protected characteristics are supported as well as maintaining inclusion and diversity best practice throughout policy development and service delivery. Whilst The Human Rights Act 1998 has further underpinned inclusive best practice.

4.4. Policy

4.4.1 No policy issues arise directly from this report.

4.5. Environmental Implications including contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

4.5.1 No environmental issues arise directly from this report.

4.6. Risk Management

4.6.1 No risk management issues arise directly from this report.

4.7. Equalities Impact

4.7.1 No equalities issues arise directly from this report. Equality impact assessment can be found at Appendix C.

4.8. Data Protection

4.8.1 No data protection issues arise directly from this report.

5. Summary of Consultation and Outcome

5.1 Young people were engaged in the Residents Engagement Consultation, seeing 154 responses, equating to approximately one third of total participants.

5.2 Young people were consulted on their experiences and aspirations in relation to housing within the district of Harborough, seeing 152 responses.

5.3 679 young people responded to feedback surveys carried out as part of the Schools Community Safety Roadshow events, informing quality of delivery and information around preferred modes of engagement.

5.4 This plan aims to build on these levels of active participation from its demographic, with a priority of ensuring young people are consulted on matters directly impacting their futures to achieve diverse representation and equality of opportunity throughout our policy development and service delivery.

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 To not have an approved Young Person Opportunities Plan was considered but this Plan is important to ensure we can support our young people to engage with the Council to ensure that their issues are considered throughout our service delivery and policy development.

7. Background papers

- Report to Communities Scrutiny Panel meeting of 30 June 2022 - [Meetings and Events \(harborough.gov.uk\)](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/Meetings-and-Events).