

APPENDIX B: LOCALITY DRAFT PRIORITIES (SUGGESTED)

1. Developing Rural Broadband

Rationale

Improvements to broadband connectivity are critical for a range of community, education and businesses needs. The lack of access to broadband could inhibit economic growth and access to services in the more remote rural areas of Harborough.

Link to HDC priorities

- Encourage a vibrant and sustainable business community
- Support the vulnerable in our society at the heart of the communities where they live (potential through accessing more services online).

Other

- Links to Troubled Families and Rural Isolation priorities
- Links to Leicestershire Priorities.

Evidence

- There is a growing Digital Divide between urban and rural areas. In Harborough many residents live within the 'Final Third' and are at risk of not receiving market-led connectivity improvements.

Potential resources

- Match funding to partner in BDUK project.

2. Helping Troubled Families

Rationale

Turning around the lives of troubled families has benefits for both national and local government and is an ambition of the Prime Minister, given the substantial set of needs that these families have and the drain upon resources that they currently present. Working with partners to help these families will lead to more efficient and effective services and better outcomes for families saving substantial public funding.

Link to HDC Priorities

- Support the vulnerable in our society at the heart of the communities where they live
- Provide the right public services to the right standard and at the right price.

Other

- Links to Welland Community Building and Rural Isolation priorities
- Links to Leicestershire Priorities

Evidence

- Initial estimates of the number of troubled families (or families with complex needs) in Leicestershire (750 - 800) and Harborough (up to 120) suggest a

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coordinated approach to helping these families would result in overall gross savings as much as £18m pa across all public services.

Potential HDC resources

- Officer time to work with partners to explore options. May have service implications if business plan can be developed to show better value in doing things differently.

3. Welland Park Community Building – Supporting Big Society

Rationale

The feasibility of a new Community Centre in Welland Park, Market Harborough is being taken forward by the Harborough Improvement Team and Self Unlimited. This local partnership has proposed the building as a multi-use facility to meet the needs of the local community including public service delivery and to provide a focus for employment training for disabled people. Taking this forward as a locality priority would support the local community and present an opportunity to deliver services within a more deprived community.

Link to HDC Priorities

- Work with communities to develop places in which to live and be happy
- Support the vulnerable in our society at the heart of the communities where they live.

Other

- Links to Troubled Families priority
- Links to Leicestershire Priorities
- Links to Big Society – ‘helping communities help themselves’

Evidence

- Of the overall populous in Harborough, there are about 180 adults with a learning disability.
- Welland Community Centre is located at the heart of the Market Harborough Priority Neighbourhoods of Welland and Logon wards. Individuals and families in this area experience higher levels of deprivation in relation to other areas in terms of income, employment, health, education and crime deprivation.
- There are a range of existing and planned community facilities in Market Harborough that do not currently meet local community needs. In addition to existing facilities a new youth centre and café is proposed at Symingtons Recreation Ground although this does not reduce the demand for this project.

Potential HDC resources

- Permission to use land in Welland Park for the construction of a community facility funded from external sources. May have further implications if the Council uses the facility to deliver services.

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4. Reducing rural isolation

Rationale

Harborough is a large rural District made up of many communities from Market Towns to isolated hamlets and villages. Commissioning innovative projects that increase social contact and improve access to local services are evidenced the most effective means to reducing rural isolation, which itself is caused by low income, poor health or disability or as a result of lack of social contact..

Link to HDC Priorities

- Work with communities to develop places in which to live and be happy
- Support the vulnerable in our society at the heart of the communities where they live.

Other

- Links to Troubled Families priority
- Links to Leicestershire Priorities
- Potential links to Big Society – ‘helping communities help themselves’

Evidence

- Surveys, statistics, parish planning and other strategies, such as the Local Transport Plan, clearly identify many residents in Harborough as at risk of rural isolation. This may be due to a lack of physical services and facilities within villages, lack of social contact or insufficient transport to reach friends and relatives or local services, such as health, employment or training facilities.

Potential HDC resources

- Financial contribution to any commissioning pot / potentially reconfiguring services to support any proposals.