



# Corporate Plan 2018/19 to 2020/21



## 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**  
Corporate Director



**Norman Proudfoot**  
Corporate Director

# WELCOME TO HARBOROUGH DISTRICT



Harborough Market

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.



Lutterworth

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.



Market Harborough

High streets remain vibrant with 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 abundance of 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.



Foxton Locks

The District retains a strong sense of heritage and character, boasting a number of tourist attractions including Foxton Locks – one of the most popular destinations in the East Midlands – Kilworth House open-air theatre, Wistow Maze and 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 Harborborough District

## OUR PRIORITIES

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

## OUR VALUES

- We value and are valued
- We are open, honest and accountable
- We challenge and innovate
- We are the best we can be



## Key achievements for 2017 – 2018

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

#### We have...

- Worked in partnership to address crime and anti-social behaviour and support vulnerable victims with 92% finding it easy to report concerns.
- Worked with other agencies and partners so far this year to safeguard 76 children, young people and adults at risk.
- Engaged with the community over an eight week public consultation period on the new Local Plan and had over 400 responses and three public workshops.
- Three Neighbourhood Plans 'made' in Hungarton, Lubenham and North Kilworth, with a further two planned within this year.
- Allocated over £200, 000 in funds for community projects continuing many years of significant investment in our communities.
- Reduced carbon emissions from Council services.
- Tackled fly-tipping through publicity campaigns and enforcement with significant increase in notifications and inspections since the "#Tip Off" campaign commenced.
- Undertook a District-wide survey of residents to inform the Council's priorities with over 900 completed responses.
- Received 2,200 responses to a consultation regarding the future Leisure provision for the District.
- Settled one Syrian family in the District in support of the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.
- Ensured the supply of existing and new affordable housing lettings are targeted to those most in need with 305 people rehoused in the last 12 months.
- Helped over 1,400 vulnerable people stay in their own homes safely through provision of the 24-hour, 365-day Harborough Lifeline service.
- Provided housing advice to 216 households, preventing homelessness in 30 instances.
- Provided core grants to Citizens Advice Bureau, Voluntary Action South Leicestershire, Lutterworth Volunteer Centre and One-Stop Shop.

#### Did you know?

The Council has helped over 170 properties to improve their energy efficiency. This equates to a reduction of 6,600 tonnes of carbon over a 20 year lifetime.

# Key achievements for 2017 – 2018

## Enable public services which are effective and deliver value for money

### We have...

- Expanded and widened our range of online services to enable customers to self-serve including the use of online forms for Council Tax payments.
- Promoted a commercial approach throughout the Council to improve financial sustainability, specifically the Control Centre, Trade Waste and Building Control.
- Developed our governance arrangements for a Combined Authority to enable efficient decision-making on transport and planning matters if introduced.
- Undertaken a Boundary Review resulting in revised warding arrangements with the Council reducing its Councillors from 37 to 34 from 2019.
- Implemented a revised Car Parking Strategy to secure the vibrancy of town centres. This has incorporated a new fee structure and parking order that has increased revenue and improved enforcement outcomes.
- Adopted a new Economic Development Strategy to promote economic growth.
- Continued to manage the Council's assets in a way that delivers value for money for the District.
- Developed houses for sale at St Cuthbert's Avenue, Great Glen and Paget Road, Lubenham.

### Did you know?

Over 90% of households and businesses in the District have access to superfast broadband.



## Key achievements for 2017 – 2018

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

#### We have...

- Engaged with businesses to promote growth and worked with larger businesses in the District to attract inward investment.
- Supported 463 businesses through the 'Pioneer 10' support programme contract.
- Worked with partners to continue to support and promote thriving town centres.
- Promoted the visitor economy through inward tourism and community events such as Harborough by the Sea and Harborough in Bloom.
- Successfully generated economic growth and diversification in rural areas through the European LEADER programme. Secured £3.25m European funding from the LLEP to provide grow-on space for small and medium enterprises in Harborough District.
- Promoted the importance of Business Continuity Plans within local businesses.
- Supported community groups to enable events to be effectively managed and coordinated through the introduction of an events toolkit and workshops for voluntary groups.
- Continued to provide funding for Harborough District businesses to take on apprentices.
- Developed the Spirit of Harborough drinks festival.



#### Did you know?

The Council has retained locally in Harborough District nearly £5 million of business rate growth since 2013 – the best performance in Leicestershire.



# Our Priorities for 2018/19 to 2020/21

## The Place: An enterprising, vibrant place

We will...

- Promote Community Safety through the Community Safety Partnership.
- Promote the vibrancy of the District's two market towns and encourage sustainable communities across the District.
- Allocate sufficient land to meet forecasted employment need across a range of employment sectors.
- Encourage the entrepreneurial small and medium enterprises economy through the Harborough Innovation Centre and business support frameworks.
- Provide effective housing advice and prevent homelessness.
- Promote Harborough District as a tourism destination.
- Promote events and effective event management.
- Work with parishes and communities in identifying and evidencing local infrastructure needs.
- Adopt and implement the Local Plan for the period to 2031.
- Influence the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan to 2050.
- Provide an effective, integrated and accessible Planning Service.





# 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 2019/20 onwards.
- 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.
- Seek community and business views through consultation.
- Provide a 24-hour Lifeline Service.



# 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.



## Elected members & political management

We have 37 councillors who represent 25 wards.

The **Conservative** group, led by Cllr Neil Bannister, has the majority with 29 seats. The **Liberal Democrats**, led by Cllr Phil Knowles, have 8 seats.

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|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <br>Cllr Sindy Mocha<br>Billesdon                       | <br>Cllr Lesley Bowles<br>Bosworth                      | <br>Cllr Mark Graves<br>Broughton Astley - Astley      | <br>Cllr Richard Tomlin<br>Broughton Astley - Broughton                | <br>Cllr Paul Darn<br>Broughton Astley - Primethorpe                    | <br>Cllr Bill Liguoreh<br>Broughton Astley - Sutton   | <br>Cllr Neil Bannister<br>Dunton                           | <br>Cllr Stephen Bibbe<br>Fleckney                          |
| <br>Cllr Charmaine Wood<br>Fleckney                     | <br>Cllr James Hallam<br>Glen                           | <br>Cllr Graham Spindle-Mason<br>Glen                  | <br>Cllr Christopher Holyoak<br>Kibworth                               | <br>Cllr Philip King<br>Kibworth  | <br>Cllr Lynne Beesley-Reynolds<br>Kibworth   | <br>Cllr Blake Phan<br>Lubham                               | <br>Cllr Elaine Chapman<br>Lutterworth - Brookfield         |
| <br>Cllr Geraldine Robinson<br>Lutterworth - Orchard  | <br>Cllr Matthew Hammond<br>Lutterworth - Springs     | <br>Cllr Janette Ackley<br>Lutterworth - Swift       | <br>Cllr Dr Sarah Hill<br>Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden | <br>Cllr Barry Champion<br>Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden | <br>Cllr Phil Knowles<br>Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden   | <br>Cllr Derek Evans<br>Market Harborough - Little Bowden | <br>Cllr Amanda Nunn<br>Market Harborough - Little Bowden |
| <br>Cllr Richard Hadkiss<br>Market Harborough - Logan | <br>Cllr Barbara Johnson<br>Market Harborough - Logan | <br>Cllr Roger Dunton<br>Market Harborough - Welland | <br>Cllr Jo Brodick<br>Market Harborough - Welland                   | <br>Cllr Julie Simpson<br>Market Harborough - Welland                 | <br>Cllr Jonathan Bowman<br>Misterton   | <br>Cllr Michael Rickman<br>Nevill                        | <br>Cllr Neville Hall<br>Peatling                         |
| <br>Cllr Amanda Burrell<br>Thurnby and Houghton       | <br>Cllr Simon Gallor<br>Thurnby and Houghton         | <br>Cllr Peter Elliot<br>Thurnby and Houghton        | <br>Cllr Michael Rook<br>Tilton                                      | <br>Cllr Rosita Page<br>Ullesthorpe                                   | <p><b>Find out more</b><br/>To find out more about each councillor, including contact details and information about which committees they sit on, visit our website at <a href="http://www.harborough.gov.uk/councillors">www.harborough.gov.uk/councillors</a></p> |  |  |





## Contact the Council

Visit our website at: [www.harborough.gov.uk](http://www.harborough.gov.uk)

Email us: [customer.services@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@harborough.gov.uk)

Make a payment using our Payment line (charged at local rate) on 0845 03003283



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(available from 8am to 5pm - closed for training from 9am to 9.30am on Wed)

Text: 07797 87 82 82

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