



# Corporate Plan

2018/19 to 2020/21

(Three-year Plan, March 2020 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 over a three-year period from April 2018 to March 2021. It also includes our key achievements in the last year (2019/20).

This Corporate Plan 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 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 was recognised in 2018 in the National LGC Efficiency Awards when the Council was 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 and the requirement in the future for councils to rely on income from Council Tax, Business Rate Growth, and charging for services.

Looking forward, through the Smarter Services Programme, the Council will continue to challenge itself on the way that services are accessed by residents and businesses, providing more services online, making improvements in how to pay for services and allowing people to manage their accounts online. 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 and ensure we can continue to provide high-quality services for our residents and businesses.

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, improved leisure provision, and a new Grow-on Centre to provide office space for small and medium enterprises following on from the success of the Harborough Innovation Centre. This programme has created a vital source of revenue benefitting Council services and taxpayers as a whole.



**Cllr Phil King**  
Leader  
Harborough District Council



**Beverley Jolly**  
Joint Chief Executive



**Norman Proudfoot**  
Joint Chief Executive



# Welcome to Harborough District

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.

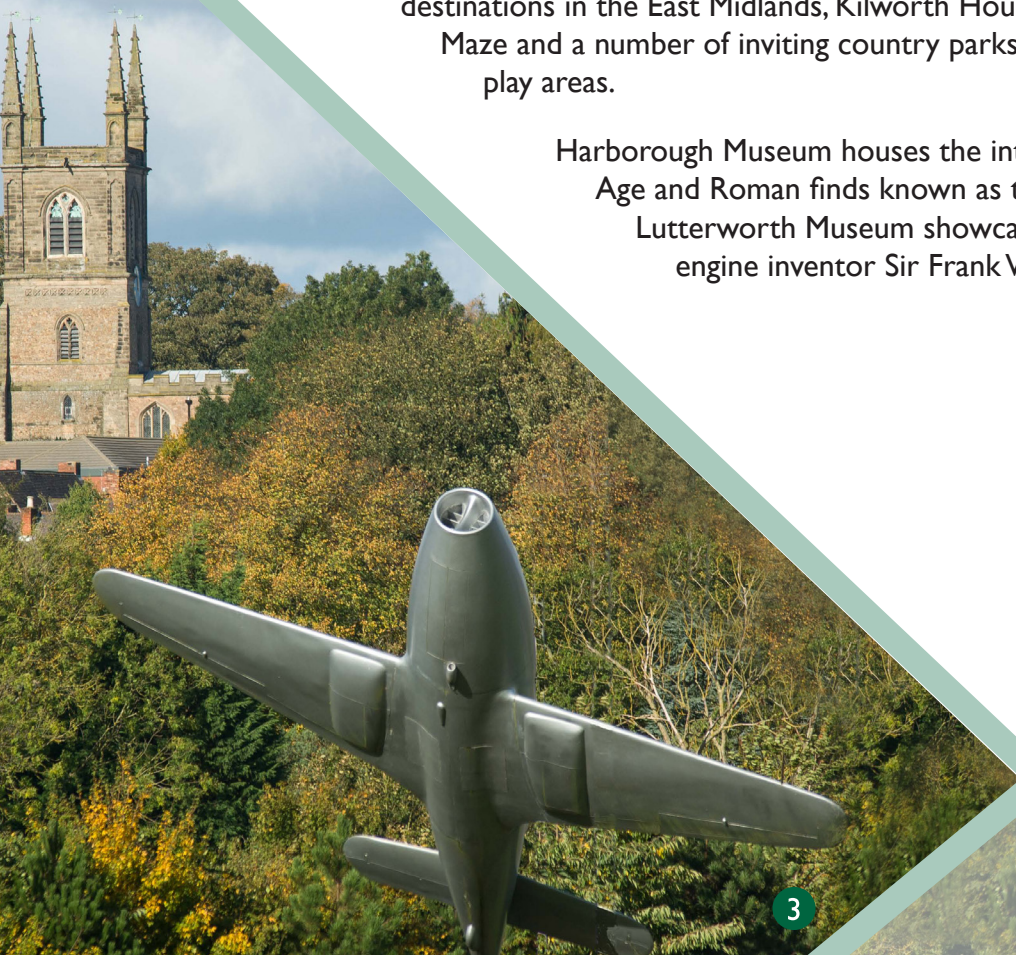
The District is one of the most sought-after places in which to live in the East Midlands with property prices remaining strong, leading to increased demand for new housing, services and facilities.

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 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

A safe, enterprising and vibrant place



### The People

A healthy, inclusive and empowered community



### Your Council

Creative, proactive and efficient

## Our District



Market Harborough



Foxton Locks



Kibworth



Broughton Astley





# Achievements for 2019/20 and Priorities for 2020/21



**The Place: a safe, enterprising  
and vibrant place**

## Key achievements in 2019/20

### We have:

- Adopted and are implementing Harborough District's Local Plan to manage future development across the District.
- Continued to take a proactive approach to tackling fly-tipping which resulted in a number of fixed-penalty notices and prosecutions.
- Opened the Grow-on Centre building in Market Harborough to provide office space and encourage businesses to locate within the District.
- Continued to work with the Community Safety Partnership to ensure that Harborough District remains one of the safest places to live in the East Midlands.
- Increased the CCTV coverage in the District to improve community safety.
- Launched the 'Invest in Harborough' initiative to promote tourism across the District.
- Taken a proactive approach to improve how we deal with housing and homelessness.
- Provided almost £1m in grants to support community projects across the District.
- Organised and promoted successful events such as the Classic Car Show, Arts Fresco and the Food and Drink Festival.
- Introduced measures which have improved air quality across the District.



## **The Place: a safe, enterprising and vibrant place**

### **Plans for 2020/21**

## **We will:**

- Continue to deliver and monitor the adopted Harborough Local Plan.
- Ensure an effective, integrated and accessible planning service.
- Work with the Community Safety Partnership to identify and address crime and disorder issues.
- Continue to monitor the air quality across the District and deliver the outcomes in the Air Quality Action Plan.
- Promote a clean environment through campaigns and enforcement.
- Provide domestic and business energy efficiency advice and measures and encourage households to participate in the Council's Switch and Save initiative.
- Ensure all Council activities work toward being carbon neutral by 2030.
- Begin a review of the Council's conservation areas to protect and enhance the District.
- Deliver investment in property including much-needed housing to serve the needs of the community and generate a financial return to support the continuation of high quality services.



This project was supported by  
**Harborough  
District Council**



## The People: a healthy, inclusive and empowered community

### Key achievements in 2019/20

#### We have:

- Continued to develop the District's leisure facilities and their management to ensure that as many people as possible are able to take part in physical activity.
- Delivered and commissioned a range of sport and physical activities which resulted in more than 23,000 attendances at physical activity events across the District.
- Encouraged older and vulnerable residents to remain in their homes via the Lightbulb scheme.
- Empowered communities through the Neighbourhood Planning process. Two Neighbourhood Plans were adopted during the 2019/20 year, which brought the total number of adopted plans up to 21.
- Provided funding to the Voluntary Sector to support older and vulnerable residents and continued to support the voluntary sector through the Harborough Lotto.
- Continued to provide a 24-hour Lifeline Service to support older and vulnerable residents.
- Sought community and business views regularly through consultation.
- Worked with parishes and communities to identify and evidence local infrastructure needs.







# The People: a healthy, inclusive and empowered community

## Plans for 2020/21

### We will:

- Deliver and commission a range of sport and physical activities and work with partners to develop long-term sustainable health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Seek to improve the District's leisure facilities and local infrastructure.
- Enable and promote the voluntary sector to support vulnerable people.
- Continue to develop the Lightbulb offer for households.
- Continue to provide a 24-hour Lifeline service to support older and vulnerable residents.
- Liaise with parishes to understand local need and enable them to provide services in their locality.
- Support the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans so that communities have a greater say over future planning decisions in their localities.
- Continue to develop and promote the Harborough Lotto to provide funds for local good causes across the District.
- Continue to support the needs of the armed forces community as part of the Armed Forces Covenant.







## Your Council: creative, proactive and efficient

### Key achievements in 2019/20

## We have:

- Embarked on a Smarter Services Programme to seek to better understand our customers and redesign our services to enhance customer experience.
- Developed business cases to deliver cost savings and income generation proposals (including capital investment options).
- Improved the effectiveness of external communications through the implementation of a revised strategic communications framework and delivery model.
- Reviewed existing and proposed partnership arrangements to ensure effective governance and transparency.
- Continued to implement the Council's Property Strategy to contribute to financial stability in the future.
- Made some commercial acquisitions to help secure the future financial stability of the Council.





## **Your Council: creative, proactive and efficient**

### **Plans for 2020/21**

## **We will:**

- Continue to seek cost savings and explore income generation opportunities to ensure the long-term financial stability of the Council.
- Implement the Council's Smarter Services Programme in order to improve the customer experience, deliver efficiencies, and maximise the use of online portals.
- Regularly seek community and business views through consultation.
- Continue to improve economic forecasting in respect of economic and housing growth.
- Ensure effective strategic communications across the District to keep residents informed of Council services and key activities.
- Undertake a Community Governance Review to ensure that parish boundaries within the District are appropriate and fit for purpose.
- Monitor the impact of Brexit on the residents of the District and on Council services.
- Work with parishes and communities to conduct a Community Governance Review.



# Elected Members and Political Management

We have 34 councillors who represent 19 wards\*.

The **Conservative** group, led by Cllr Phil King, has the majority with 22 seats.

The **Liberal Democrats**, led by Cllr Phil Knowles, have 11 seats.

The **Labour Party** have 1 seat.



Cllr Cindy Modha  
**Billesdon & Tilton**



Cllr Amanda Nunn  
**Bosworth**



Cllr Paul Dann  
**Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton**



Cllr Bill Liquorish  
**Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton**



Cllr Colin Golding  
**Broughton Astley - South & Leire**



Cllr Mark Graves  
**Broughton Astley - South & Leire**



Cllr Neil Bannister  
**Dunton**



Cllr Stephen Bilbie  
**Fleckney**



Cllr Charmaine Wood  
**Fleckney**



Cllr James Hallam  
**Glen**



Cllr Rani Mahal  
**Glen**



Cllr Robin Hollick  
**Kibworths**



Cllr Phil King  
**Kibworths**



Cllr Simon Whelband  
**Kibworths**



Cllr Paul Bremner  
**Lubenham**



Cllr Janette Ackerley  
**Lutterworth - East**



Cllr Martin Sarfas  
**Lutterworth - East**



Cllr Paul Beadle  
**Lutterworth - West**



Cllr Gerladine Robinson  
**Lutterworth - West**



Cllr Barry Champion  
**Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden**



Cllr Phil Knowles  
**Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden**



Cllr Peter James  
**Market Harborough - Little Bowden**



Cllr Frankie McHugo  
**Market Harborough - Little Bowden**



Cllr Dominic Fosker  
**Market Harborough - Logan**



Cllr Barbara Johnson  
**Market Harborough - Logan**



Cllr Roger Dunton  
**Market Harborough - Welland**



Cllr Barry Frenchman  
**Market Harborough - Welland**



Cllr Julie Simpson  
**Market Harborough - Welland**



Cllr Jonathan Bateman  
**Misterton**



Cllr Michael Rickman  
**Nevill**



Cllr Amanda Burrell  
**Thurnby and Houghton**



Cllr Peter Elliott  
**Thurnby and Houghton**



Cllr Simon Galton  
**Thurnby and Houghton**



Cllr Rosita Page  
**Uilesthorpe**





# Contact the Council

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

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