



Corporate Plan 2017-18



Introduction

Welcome to Harborough District Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2018 which sets out the Council's vision and its priorities for the district.



Blake Pain
Leader
Harborough District Council

Our Corporate Plan for 2017-2018 sets out our aspirations for Harborough District for the year 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.

Our vision

Working with communities in a vibrant, safe and prosperous District.

Our Priorities

- Working with communities to develop places in which to live and be happy.
- Enable public services which are effective and deliver value for money.
- Encourage a vibrant and sustainable business community intent on prosperity, employment and learning opportunities.

Our values

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



Beverley Jolly
Corporate Director



Norman Proudfoot
Corporate Director



Welcome to Harborough District



Thorpe Langton



Broughton Astley



Lutterworth



Foxton Locks



Market Harborough

Harborough District, situated in the heart of the Welland Valley in rural south Leicestershire, is well known for its rolling countryside, picturesque villages, historic 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 towns and cities, the M1 motorway and direct rail links to London.

High streets remain vibrant with the local business community relatively resistant to national 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 recent 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 – 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.

Work is ongoing to make better use of our property assets, by continuing to redevelop Council-owned garage sites to provide housing, and by leasing out space within our headquarters at The Symington Building. This has created a vital source of revenue benefiting Council services and taxpayers as a whole.

Key achievements for 2016 – 2017

Priority

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

We have...

- Engaged with communities in the development of the Local Plan via a series of interactive consultation events.
- Supported a number of parish councils through the Neighbourhood Plans Process, and held referenda to enable residents to vote on proposed plans as well as supporting 24 other parish councils in early the early stages of developing Neighbourhood plans.
- Seen over 20,000 attendances at activity sessions by residents from all age ranges across the district.
- Commissioned an options appraisal for the future of the Council-owned leisure centres.
- Raised awareness of child sexual exploitation across all secondary schools (1,700 pupils).
- Purchased a new deployable camera with infrared functionality for use in antisocial behaviour hotspots.
- Undertaken training with parishes on enforcement and community emergency plans.
- Launched a fly tipping campaign called 'Tip-off'.
- Supported the need for redevelopment of Harborough Railway Station.



Did you know...

...during the 2016/17 year Harborough District Council secured over £9.6 million of Section 106 funds and allocated over £200,000 to community projects.

Key achievements for 2016 – 2017

Priority

Enable public services which are effective and deliver value for money

We have...

- Kept Council Tax low (0% increase on the previous year) and still delivered value for money.
- Successfully launched a chargeable green waste collection service to which over half of the district subscribed.
- Worked with partners to develop a growth plan for the County and City areas which will support growth in economy, jobs and homes.
- Worked with partners to develop a Combined Authority to promote economic growth.
- Submitted an Efficiency Plan to central government which demonstrates the Council's commitment to reducing costs and increasing income, resulting in securing funding for four years from central government.
- Adopted a new Car Parking Strategy which aims to meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors to the District.
- Generated capital receipts and reduced running costs through effective estate management.
- Submitted a preferred option to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the future size and boundary arrangements of the Council to reduce number of Councillors from 37 to 34.



Did you know...

Over 19,000 households subscribed to the Green Waste Collection Service during the 2016/17 year.

Key achievements for 2016 - 2017

Priority

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

We have...

- Provided £40,000 to businesses to initiate apprenticeships.
- Directly employed two apprentices, one of whom was a regional winner of the East Midlands Intermediate Apprentice of the year.
- Supported a range of community events across the District, to encourage visitors, including: Harborough by the Sea, the Christmas Fayre, Arts Fresco, and Harborough in Bloom.
- Won a Best Small Indoor Market award for Harborough Market.
- Launched the 'Explore Harborough' website to enable visitors to identify attractions in the District.
- Achieved over 90% coverage of the District with Superfast broadband.
- Supported local businesses with broadband infrastructure through issuing vouchers.
- Continued to work with the Superfast Leicestershire Broadband programme to secure funding for access for the remaining 10% of residents who can not yet connect.
- Launched a new Business Support programme 'Pioneer 10' which has already supported over 400 businesses across the district.
- Submitted bids for external funding to support the growth of small and medium enterprises in Harborough District.
- Due to high levels of economic growth in the District, retained a high level of business rates to support Council Services.



Did you know...

Over 4,500 businesses receive regular newsletters from the Council which highlight opportunities and provide useful information.

Key achievements for 2016 - 2017

Priority

To support the vulnerable in the community where they live

We have...

- Helped over 1,400 vulnerable people stay their own homes safely through provision of the 24-hour, 365-day Harborough Lifeline service.
- Worked with the owners of empty properties to encourage empty properties to be brought back into use.
- Issued notices to landlords in cases of poor housing conditions.
- Worked with our public sector partners to support families in need.
- Successful implementation and transfer from Housing Benefits to Universal Credit.
- Provided Housing advice to over 300 households which helped to prevent homelessness.
- Promoted access to advice and benefits.
- Provided core grants to Citizens Advice Bureau, Voluntary Action South Leicestershire, Lutterworth Volunteer Centre and One-Stop Shop.



Did you know...

During 2016/17 year the Council invested over £300,000 and worked with partners to ensure that vulnerable people remained in their own homes through disabled facility grants and improved co-ordination by housing and social care agencies.

Council priorities for 2017 – 2018

Priority

Working with Communities to develop places in which to live and be happy.

We will...

- Work in partnership to address crime and anti-social behavior and support vulnerable people.
- Submit for examination a new Local Plan to promote sustainable development, meet housing and employment needs, and protect open space.
- Continue to support communities to help them deliver Neighbourhood Planning.
- Continue to allocate funds for community projects.
- Reduce carbon emissions by continuing to promote domestic energy efficiencies.
- Tackle fly-tipping through publicity campaigns and enforcement.
- Undertake a District-wide survey of residents to inform the Council's priorities.
- Support the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme along with other Districts in Leicestershire.
- Reduce the impact of incidents of flooding through working with partners.
- Work with communities and parishes in the implementation of tougher enforcement powers (dog control, public drinking etc.).
- Implement the revised Housing Strategy to enable the right mix of housing.
- Ensure supply of existing and new affordable housing lettings are targeted to those most in need.



Did you know...

There are over 1,250 listed buildings and more than 60 Conservation Areas in the Harborough District.

Council priorities for 2017 – 2018

Priority

Enable public services which are effective and deliver value for money

We will...

- Expand and widen our range of online services to enable customers to self-serve.
- Promote a commercial approach throughout the Council to improve financial sustainability.
- Continue to work with partners to develop a Combined Authority to enable efficient decision-making on transport and planning matters.
- Implement any revised warding arrangements arising from the recent review of boundaries.
- Implement a revised Car Parking Strategy to secure vibrancy of town centres.
- Identify opportunities to work in partnership with others in the delivery of services in order to identify savings, income generation opportunities and improve resilience.
- Adopt a new Economic Development Strategy.
- Continue to manage the Council's assets in a way that delivers value for money for the District.



Did you know...

90% of our Open for Business activities were delivered in the last three years.

Council priorities for 2017 – 2018

Priority

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

We will...

- Engage with businesses to promote growth and to identify local barriers to growth or development.
- Implement the Council's new Economic Development Strategy.
- Sponsor the Business Support Programme 'Pioneer 10' through the Harborough Innovation Centre management contract.
- Continue to support and promote thriving town centres.
- Promote the visitor economy through inward tourism and community events.
- Continue to promote business growth in rural areas via supporting the LEADER funding programme.
- Continue to engage with and pursue funding from the LLEP to promote growth in the Harborough District.
- Promote the importance of Business Continuity Plans within local businesses.
- Support community groups to enable events to be effectively managed and coordinated.



Did you know...

Harborough District spans an area of 59,178 hectares, or 228 square miles, and 95% of all places in England are within four hours travelling distance of Lutterworth.

Elected members & political management

We have 37 councillors who represent 25 wards.

The **Conservative** group, led by Cllr Blake Pain, has the majority with 29 seats.

The **Liberal Democrats**, led by Cllr Phil Knowles, have 8 seats.

 Cllr Cindy Modha Billeston	 Cllr Lesley Bowles Bosworth	 Cllr Mark Graves Broughton Astley - Astley	 Cllr Richard Tomlin Broughton Astley - Broughton	 Cllr Paul Dann Broughton Astley - Primethorpe	 Cllr Bill Liguorish Broughton Astley - Sutton	 Cllr Neil Bannister Dunton	 Cllr Stephen Bible Fleokney
 Cllr Charmaine Wood Fleokney	 Cllr James Hallam Glen	 Cllr Graham Spendlove-Mason Glen	 Cllr Christopher Holyoak Kibworth	 Cllr Philip King Kibworth	 Cllr Lynne Beasley-Reynolds Kibworth	 Cllr Blake Pain Lubenham	 Cllr Elaine Chapman Lutterworth - Brookfield
 Cllr Geraldine Robinson Lutterworth - Orshead	 Cllr Matthew Hammond Lutterworth - Springs	 Cllr Janette Ackley Lutterworth - Swift	 Cllr Dr Sarah Hill Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden	 Cllr Barry Champion Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden	 Cllr Phil Knowles Market Harborough - Great Bowden and Arden	 Cllr Derek Evans Market Harborough - Little Bowden	 Cllr Amanda Nunn Market Harborough - Little Bowden
 Cllr Richard Haddes Market Harborough - Logan	 Cllr Barbara Johnson Market Harborough - Logan	 Cllr Roger Dunton Market Harborough - Welland	 Cllr Jo Brodick Market Harborough - Welland	 Cllr Julie Simpson Market Harborough - Welland	 Cllr Jonathan Bateman Mickerton	 Cllr Michael Rickman Nevill	 Cllr Neville Hall Peatling
 Cllr Amanda Burrell Thumby and Houghton	 Cllr Simon Galton Thumby and Houghton	 Cllr Peter Elliott Thumby and Houghton	 Cllr Michael Rook Tilton	 Cllr Rosie Page Ullesthorpe	<p>Find out more To find out more about each councillor, including contact details and information about which committees they sit on, visit our website at www.harborough.gov.uk/councillors</p>		

Managing the Council's finances 2017 - 2018

Planning for the future

Over many years the Council has successfully managed its finances and has managed to maintain the delivery of quality services despite significant reduction in Central Government Funding since 2010. As a result of efficient and effective budget management and a three-year Medium Term Financial Strategy it has been possible to freeze or reduce Council Tax over the past six years.

Funding for Local Government is expected to change dramatically with the potential 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. However, since 2013 the Council has been the highest recipient per head of population of retained business rate growth and new homes bonus. A local plan will be issued in 2017 setting out the Council's plans for housing and economic growth up to 2031.

The Council is forecasting £3.3 million of additional funding pressures by 2019/20 arising from Government funding reductions and unavoidable cost pressures. In addition to the maximisation of business rates, Council Tax increases



going forward and receipts from building houses there is a need for the Council to make efficiencies or generate additional fees and charges in excess of £¾ million by 2019/20. The 2017/18 budget makes a positive start on delivering this target with over 50% of the efficiency gap being delivered in year one of the three years.

The Council has been successful in securing guaranteed Government funding to 2019/20 through the adoption of an Efficiency Plan. Our focus will be on improving outcomes for residents but we will not necessarily be the provider or funder of services in the future. The Council aims to ensure services that meet the needs of the local people at the right time and are affordable for tax payers and residents.

The next few years are expected to remain challenging and will be subject to volatility and change. The Council is confident that its financial strategy will allow the next three years to be managed in a planned way.



Contact the Council

Visit our website at: www.harborough.gov.uk

Email us: customer.services@harborough.gov.uk

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



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Call us on: 01858 828282

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

Text: 07797 87 82 82

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www.harborough.gov.uk