



Performance Overview & Scrutiny Panel

**To All Members of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Panel on
Wednesday, 21 February 2024**

Date of meeting: Wednesday, 28 February 2024

Time: 18:30

**Venue: Council Chamber
Council Offices, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough.**

Members of the public can access a live broadcast of the meeting from the [Council website](#), and the meeting webpage. The meeting will also be open to the public.

Agenda

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And all other Councillors for information

Harborough District Council
Report to
Performance Overview and Scrutiny
Meeting of 28 February 2024



Title:	Health and Wellbeing Strategy Report
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	N/A
Report Author:	Rachael Felts – Head of Customer Services and Community Partnerships Steve Taylor – Health and Wellbeing Manager
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Jim Knight, Wellbeing
Appendices:	Appendix A – Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027 Appendix B – Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2022-2024 Appendix C – Leisure Strategy 2024-2027

Executive Summary

- i. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy ensures that the key priorities within the Corporate Plan are delivered, specifically, 'Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices.
- ii. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Action Plan was approved by Cabinet at its meeting 22nd October 2022.
- iii. This report provides Members of Performance Overview and Scrutiny with an update on the action plan which supported the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027.
- iv. The report also introduces the new Leisure Strategy 2024-2027 (draft) which will align with and form an addendum of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027.

Recommendations

- **To note the actions undertaken in the Action Plan (Appendix B) which supports the aims of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.**
- **To note that a refresh of the Action Plan will take place to ensure actions remain relevant, and these actions are embedded into business as usual to ensure continuous delivery of Health and Wellbeing across all service areas.**
- **To note the Leisure Strategy 2024-27 at Appendix C, which will align to and form an addendum to The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027 to support the health and wellbeing of our community.**

Reasons for Recommendations

- Through continued work in partnership with key stakeholders and alongside our communities the Council can aim to improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To note the work the council has undertaken during the last year to support the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy through the Health and Wellbeing Action plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 The health and wellbeing of a person or community is influenced by many factors, including personal characteristics including sex, age, ethnic group, and the individual 'lifestyle' factors including behaviours such as smoking, alcohol use, and physical activity.
- 2.2 Social and community networks, family support, access and opportunities in relation to jobs, housing, education and welfare services, along with the socioeconomic, cultural and environmental conditions including factors such as disposable income and cost of living all play a part in someone's health and wellbeing.
- 2.3 The Council is in a strong position to influence and support many of these wider determinants of health through the services it delivers, either solely or in partnership with stakeholders. The importance of health and wellbeing to the purpose of the Council is reflected in the Corporate Plan.
- 2.4 The purpose of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to help deliver the Corporate Plan 2022 – 2031, working closely with partner agencies to ensure that health and wellbeing is a focal point in Harborough District.

3. Details

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy (**Appendix A**) identifies six cross-cutting strategic priorities for Health and Wellbeing in Harborough District between 2022 and 2027, these are:
 - Quality homes for all
 - Community infrastructure
 - Skills, jobs & income
 - Stronger communities
 - Mental health
 - Physical health
- 3.2 An Action Plan was prepared which supported the delivery of the Strategy. The purpose of this report is to review this action plan and to demonstrate how the actions have been implemented. Update on the actions can be found at **Appendix B**.
- 3.3 The Cabinet report of October 2022 noted the Action Plan would be reviewed to ensure the Council and partners continued to deliver and improve health and wellbeing for residents.

- 3.4 A refresh of the Action Plan will take place to ensure actions remain relevant, and these actions will be embedded into business as usual through service area Team Plans, to ensure continuous delivery of Health and Wellbeing across all service areas from April 2024.
- 3.5 The purpose of the Leisure Strategy found at **Appendix C** will provide a plan for promoting and developing leisure opportunities within the district. The plan will need to be flexible and able to adapt and change to meet the future leisure demands and expectations of residents.
- 3.6 It is important a stand-alone strategy is not created but to offer a comprehensive plan which will enhance the leisure offerings for our residents. Therefore, it is vital to integrate and align the Leisure Strategy 2024-2027 with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027. By doing so, resources can be maximised and create a holistic approach to leisure development that caters for the needs of the community.
- 3.7 The Leisure Strategy focuses on five key areas each with own objectives. As well as aligning this Strategy to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the outcomes will need to be aligned to the Leisure Centre Capital Investment project which will commence from April 2024 as part of the new operator contract.
- 3.8 An Action Plan to support the delivery of the Leisure Strategy will be prepared once more is understood on the timings for the Capital Investment works. Where possible the outcomes will be delivered through business as usual, the Capital Investment project, and/or a stand-alone action plan.

4. Implications of Decisions

Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The strategy will contribute towards the delivery of 3 of the 4 key Corporate Priorities:
- Promoting health & wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices.
 - Community Leadership to create a sense of pride in our place.
 - Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations.

Consultation

- 4.2 None.

Financial

- 4.3 The action plan continues to be delivered through existing resources and by working alongside our key strategic partners.

Legal

- 4.4 None.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There is likely to be a positive effect on environmental implications as residents are encouraged to move more and sit less; to utilise walking, running and cycling to travel around our neighbourhoods and green spaces.

Risk Management

4.6 No risk management issues arise directly from this report.

Equalities Impact

4.7 The Equality Analysis was completed to support the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and formed part of the report to Cabinet in October 2022.

Data Protection

4.8 No data protection issues arise directly from this report.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 This report is to note the actions undertaken to support the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. As there are no decisions, no alternative options have been considered.

6. Recommendation

6.1 To note the actions undertaken in the Action Plan (Appendix B) and the Leisure Strategy 2024-27 (Appendix C) both of which supports the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

7. Background papers

- Scrutiny Report 30 June 2022 - [Meetings and Events \(harborough.gov.uk\)](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/Meetings-and-Events).
- Cabinet Report 10 October 2022 - [Meetings and Events \(harborough.gov.uk\)](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/Meetings-and-Events)

Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027

OUR VISION

Working with our communities, we will build a future for the people of Harborough district that gives them the best life chances and opportunities through:

Community leadership to create a sense of pride in our place

Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices

Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations

Supporting residents and businesses to deliver a prosperous local economy

INTRODUCTION

There are many factors that contribute towards a person's mental, physical and social health and wellbeing – many of which may change throughout a persons life.

These include;

- Personal characteristics including sex, age, ethnic group, and hereditary factors
- Individual 'lifestyle' factors including behaviours such as smoking, alcohol use, and physical activity
- Social and community networks and support including family and wider social circles
- Living and working conditions including access and opportunities in relation to jobs, housing, education and welfare services
- General socioeconomic, cultural and environmental conditions including factors such as disposable income, cost of living and availability of work.

This strategy will support the Council to work with partners and the community to improve health and wellbeing through taking action on the wider factors that contribute to health and wellbeing - ensuring that we utilise our collective resources effectively.

OUR DISTRICT

Harborough District is a fantastic place to live, work and visit and is a beautiful part of rural England. It represents many good things about life – the bustle and friendliness of our market towns, the quality of our built heritage and local landscape, the proximity to larger centres for specialist healthcare and services and a relatively safe and tranquil place to live and work.

However, we still face some key challenges. These include;

- An ageing population and associated health conditions
- Limitations in transport infrastructure and the rural isolation experienced by some of our communities
- Increased cost per capita to deliver services across a large rural area
- Pockets of hidden deprivation and inequality
- Rising incidence of physical inactivity
- Higher housing costs and lower local wage levels

OUR AIM

To have a culture and environment that promotes and supports health and wellbeing for all, to significantly improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce district wide health inequalities by 2027 working with partners and our community across Harborough District

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We have identified six cross-cutting strategic priorities for Health and Wellbeing in Harborough district between 2023 and 2028:

Our priorities been arrived at via

- Strategic assessment of opportunities and challenges for the district
- Engagement with residents and partners via surveys and roadshows
- Review of national and local datasets, including Population Projections, the Local Authority Health Profile and Index of Multiple Deprivation.

1. Quality homes for all

Housing conditions are important contributing factors to health. We need to make sure that new and existing housing in the district meets the population needs in terms of availability, affordability, quality, design and function.

We will

- Promote high design standards for new housing
- Improve living accommodation within the district
- Support vulnerable adults and older people to remain independent in their homes
- Provide energy efficiency advice and measures
- Build services and pathways to housing for vulnerable groups

2. Community Infrastructure and services

Access to nature, community places and services can support residents to improve health and maintain a healthy lifestyle. We need to work with partners and local communities to plan and deliver community infrastructure.

We will

- Secure and invest in community infrastructure through the s106 process
- Support the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and local health and wellbeing objectives
- Work in partnership to ensure green spaces are accessible
- Work in partnership to improve access to canals and waterways

3. Skills, jobs and income

Personal development, having a job and income to meet needs are important contributing factor to health and wellbeing. We need to work with partners and businesses to support training and skill development, growth and jobs in the district.

We will

- Develop training opportunities that contribute towards health and wellbeing
- Local employment average salary levels are sufficient to allow residents to live and work locally
- Ensure advice and support for vulnerable residents to manage debts and access full benefit entitlement/ maximise income

4. Stronger Communities

The communities' people are born, live, work and socialise in have an influence on how healthy they are. We need to work with 'assets' within communities, such as skills and knowledge, which can be mobilised to support health and wellbeing, particularly working with marginalised groups to reduce health inequality

We will

- Enable funding and support for the voluntary and community sector to support health and wellbeing outcomes
- Work in partnership with specialist charities that can help tackle health inequalities
- Increase awareness of the rapidly ageing population and health related conditions e.g. dementia

5. Mental Health

Mental health is an important part of well-being. It is all about how people think, feel, and behave. We need to support people to reach a balance between life activities, responsibilities, and efforts to achieve positive mental health and resilience to manage challenges.

We will

- Develop awareness of mental health in the workplace
- Work with Early Help services to support young people to improve mental health
- Work with health services to promote the central access point
- Support the local delivery of crisis cafes in Market Harborough and Lutterworth

6. Physical activity

Regular physical activity can help develop your thinking, learning, and judgment skills as well as keeping these sharp as you age. It can also reduce your risk of depression and anxiety and help you sleep better. We need to support more people to be physically active, more often.

We will

- Support partners to deliver and commission physical activity sessions for children and young people
- Develop pathways into physical activity accessible for everyone in the district
- Develop place led physical activity opportunities - particularly for hard-to-reach groups
- Increase the health and wellbeing offer at Leisure Centres and increase participation - particularly for hard-to-reach groups
- Work with businesses to promote wellbeing at work
- Improve air quality in both the Kibworths and Lutterworth

ACTION PLAN

We will measure our success through an action plan, which will be updated every year.

HDC-led Action Plan
This action plan relates to the work that Harborough District Council (HDC) will lead on for the Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022/27

No.	Objective	What we will do	By when	Who will deliver this?	Milestones	Target/Outcome	Update on actions as at Jan 2024
Priority 1 - Housing for all							
1.a	Promote high design standards for new housing	Review policy as part of Local Plan refresh	2022/23	Planning Policy, Registered Providers.	Refresh of local plan	Achieve high design standards for new homes	A Design Code will be prepared following preparation of the new Local Plan. This is currently budgeted for in 2025/6.
1.b	Improve living accommodation within the district	Private sector inspections work to minimise empty properties	2022/23	Regulatory Services	Monitor the implementation of the HMO inspection programme. Cross service working on problematic empty properties	Protect the most vulnerable from the activities of poor landlords. Minimise the impact of empty homes on local communities	In 2022/23 (by Q3) 16 empty homes had interventions carried out to bring them back to use. The district currently has 12 HMOs registered with the council. Under the new civil penalties act - HDC have not fined or prosecuted any landlords yet but a series of enforcement notices have been served to make improvements.
1.c	Support vulnerable adults and older people to remain independent in their homes	Support the Lightbulb project	2022/23	Regulatory Services	Monitor implementation of the Lightbulb work programme	Keeping vulnerable people independent in their homes, helping to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions or GP visits, and facilitating timely discharges through the on-going delivery of	In quarter two 2023/24 the average time for disability adaptations to be completed was 12 weeks Application data 2021/22 105 cases received 79 cases completed 70 cases in work flow 2022/23 111 cases received

						the Lightbulb project.	<p>85 cases completed 75 cases in work flow</p> <p>2023/24 up to end of Qu 2 62 cases received 29 cases completed 39 cases in work flow</p>
1.d	Provide energy efficiency advice and measures	Provide energy efficiency advice and measures	2022/23	Regulatory Services, district, and county partners.	Support delivery of Warm Homes Project, Collective Energy Switching. Prepare for additional opportunities for housing retrofit subject to external funding availability	<p>Reduced energy consumption in the district. More households can access cheaper electricity tariffs. Reduced emissions of greenhouse gasses. Increase the take up of renewable energy across the district</p>	<p>In Q3 and Q4 2023, HUG 2 funding was launched a number of properties have begun qualification for works. The first batch of properties are due to begin works in Feb 2024. Further work on energy efficiency and retrofit is being developed as part of the Green Living Leicestershire partnership, delivered by LCC warm homes team. This includes a new programme starting in Spring 2024 to signpost residents to opportunities for improving their home energy efficiency. Collective switching has been paused whilst energy costs have been high and no competitive switching was being offered. An auction has taken place in January and offers are being sent out to over 500 registrants. Information on numbers switching will be available in Feb 2024.</p>

1.e	Build services and pathways to housing for vulnerable groups	Work with district and borough councils and partners to develop housing protocols for vulnerable groups	2022/23	Housing, Chief Housing Officers Group, Registered Providers	Protocols and pathways in place for Rough Sleepers, Care Leavers, 16/17 Homeless, Prisoners, Mental Health, Veterans	Vulnerable groups are supported to access safe and affordable housing	Housing team is currently consulting on a replacement Housing, homelessness prevention and rough sleeping strategy to help address the 100%+ increase in homeless presentations between 2019/20 and 2022/23.
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No.	Objective	What we will do	By when	Who will deliver this?	Milestones	Target/Outcome	Update on actions as at Jan 2024
Priority 2 - Community Infrastructure							
2.a	Secure and invest in community infrastructure through the s106 process	Ensure policy and procedures are in place to secure s106 funding and direct to local projects	2022/23	Planning Policy Health & Wellbeing	Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement	Ensure the necessary infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of future development.	<p>Annual IFS was published on council website in December 2023, Funding in 2023/24. The committee reviewed 4 applications and the approvals from 27th September Meeting are as follows</p> <p>001 – S106 R2 2023/24 Ullesthorpe Village Memorial - Unanimously agreed to support in full</p> <p>002 – S106 R2 2023/24 North Kilworth Parish Council Unanimously agreed to support in full</p> <p>003 – S106 R2 2023/24 Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council Unanimously agreed to support in part</p> <p>004 – S106 R2 2023/24 Kibworth Scouts and Guides Unanimously agreed to support in part.</p> <p>There have been eight non-committee applications, seven of which have been approved and funded, these are:</p>

							-Shangton PC -Broughton Astley PC x 2 -Kibworth Harcourt PC -Robert Monks Foxton Charity -Theddingworth Church -Sutton in the Elms
2.b	Support the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and local health and wellbeing objectives	Support the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and local health and wellbeing objectives	2022/23	Planning Policy, Health & Wellbeing, parish and town councils, community and voluntary groups.	The number of Neighbourhood Plans that have been 'made'	Bringing community together to promote community cohesion and civic pride	During 2022 -24 - Kibworth Neighbourhood Plan Review passed Referendum on 4 May 2023. Plan now 'made'. - Dunton Bassett Neighbourhood Plan Passed Referendum on 29 June 2023. Plan now 'made'. - Little Bowden Neighbourhood Forum Designated 9 Feb 2023. - Little Bowden Neighbourhood Area Designated 9 Feb 2023. - Welland Neighbourhood Forum Designated 18 July 2023. - Welland Neighbourhood Area Designated 18 July 2023. - Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan Review (minor non-material) modifications complete. The following are currently in consultation stage Billesdon, Logan and Arden.

2.c	Work in partnership to ensure green spaces are accessible	Establish and sustain links with partners such as Green Spaces, Rights of Way and Countryside Access to develop innovative, sustainable programmes in the natural environment that target those recognised as having low levels of physical activity.	2022/23	Health & Wellbeing Environmental Services Parish Councils, Town councils	6monthly updates on Physical Activity Commissioning Plan	Residents are able to access local green spaces	Working with the Rivers and Canals Trust to deliver on year 2 in South Leicestershire. Referrals have provided the opportunity to take part in physical activity sessions developed around the canals and waterways to improve physical and mental health. A project co-ordinator has developed the scheme in Harborough, working directly with partners and participants. Linked to blue Social Prescribing below the programme utilises countryside to deliver walking groups when weather means that community cannot access the water.
2.d	Work in partnership to improve access to canals and waterways	Develop Blue Social Prescribing and physical activity sessions developed around the canals and waterways to improve mental health	2022/23	Health & Wellbeing Canals & Rivers Trust	6monthly updates on Physical Activity Commissioning Plan	Residents are supported to access local waterways and canals	192 attendances at blue social prescribing events, retained for 2023/24 via UKSPF funding activities include Canoeing, Paddle boarding and walking groups

No.	Objective	What we will do	By when	Who will deliver this?	Milestones	Target/Outcome	Update on actions as at Jan 2024
Priority 3 - Skills, Jobs & Income							
3.a	Develop training opportunities that contribute towards health and wellbeing	Identify, develop and review training opportunities for instructors, casual staff, coaches and volunteers to ensure that they have the necessary knowledge and qualifications to meet requirements of both national and local physical activity guidelines.	2022/23	Health & Wellbeing Economic Development, local businesses	6monthly updates on Physical Activity Commissioning Plan	Increase the number of training opportunities	Staff trained to deliver level 4 programmes such as Steady steps and Escape Pain a pilot programme within the district
3.b	Local employment average salary levels are sufficient to allow residents to live and work locally	Promote investment and job growth	2022/23	Economic Development, local businesses	Quarterly updates	Average salary levels are sufficient to allow residents to live and work locally	Average salary in Harborough Is currently at £38K , Housing affordability ration currently at 9.52(higher than England) Continue to host and deliver job fairs across the year to help retain local talent.

3.c	Ensure advice and support for vulnerable residents to manage debts and access full benefit entitlement/ maximise income	Commission free advice and support for residents to access to help manage debts and maximise income	2022/23	Community Partnerships, voluntary and community groups	Quarterly updates and annual Scrutiny	Number of clients supported Increased income	In quarter 1 2 3/24 the CAB supported 675 clients in Harborough. They recorded £71,050 of debt. Top benefit issue was localised social welfare. Top debt issue was council tax.
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No.	Objective	What we will do	By when	Who will deliver this?	Milestones	Target/Outcome	Update on actions as at Jan 2024
Priority 4 - Stronger Communities							
4.a	Enable funding and support for the voluntary and community sector to support health and wellbeing outcomes	Grow the Harborough Lotto as an income source for local groups that support health and wellbeing	2022/23	Community Partnerships, Community and Voluntary sector organisations	Annual increase in the number of groups registered as good causes with the Harborough Lotto	Increase the amount of funding generated by the Harborough Lotto	Promotion of the Lottery has been undertaken, money received to enable sufficient grant opportunities remains low. The economic climate and pressures of cost of living may have impacted take-up of the lotto. Further work will be undertaken during the next year to better understand any reasons for low take up and to see if this could be increased.
4.b	Work in partnership with specialist charities that can help tackle health inequalities	Work with Travelling Forward project as part of the multi-agency approach to engaging the Traveller community	2022/23	Community Partnerships, Local Area Co-ordinators (LCC), CCG/ICS	Regular updates on work to engage Traveller Community via the Community Safety Partnership	Increase initiatives that improve health outcomes and tackle health inequalities	HCCYC attend multi- agency Project Listen Meetings to update on Travelling Forward project. Next meeting 7 th February.
4.c	Increase awareness of the rapidly ageing population and health related conditions e.g. dementia	Work with LOROS to develop Market Harborough as the first Compassionate Town / District in Leicestershire	2022/23	Community Partnerships, LOROS, Local Area Co-ordinators (LCC)	Annual update	Number of organisations engaged in Compassionate Town / District	Closed - Due to changes within the LOROS structure they were no longer able to continue with this initiative.

No.	Objective	What we will do	By when	Who will deliver this?	Milestones	Target/Outcome	Update on actions as at Jan 2024
Priority 5 - Mental Health							
5.a	Develop awareness of mental health in the workplace	Provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for Council Officers	2022/23	Human Resources	Annual update on number of staff trained	Increase the awareness of mental health and how to help	Mental health first aider course took place for staff (12) in December 2022.
5.b	Work with Early Help services to support young people to improve mental health	Support local services and schools as required through coordinating the local Think Family Partnership	2022/23	Health & Wellbeing Early Help Services, LCC, CCG/ICS	Quarterly Meetings		HDC continues to Chair the Thinking Families meetings and will continue to do so
5.c	Work with health services to promote the central access point	Promote 24hr Mental Health Central Access Point - 0808 800 3302 for anyone needing mental health support	2022/23	Communications Community Partnerships Leicestershire Partnership Trust, ICS	Quarterly updates	Increase the number of residents accessing support from the Central Access Point	Advertising of the link to the mental health pages are regular items on the council's social media accounts and information features on the council's mental health and wellbeing web page: www.harborough.gov.uk/mental-health
5.d	Support the local delivery of crisis cafes in Market Harborough and Lutterworth	Host crisis cafes at TSB and Lutterworth Sports Centre	2022/23	Community Partnerships Leicestershire Partnership Trust	Quarterly updates	Increase the number of residents accessing support from Crisis Cafes	Crisis Cafes run weekly on a Wednesday in The Symington Building and every Friday at the Wellbeing Hub in Lutterworth.

No.	Objective	What we will do	By when	Who will deliver this?	Milestones	Target/Outcome	Update on actions as at Jan 2024
Priority 6 - Physical Activity							
6.a	Support partners to deliver and commission physical activity sessions for children and young people	Work with the School Sports Partnership Activity Network	2022/23	Health & Wellbeing SSPAN	6monthly updates on Physical Activity Commissioning Plan	Increase physical activity of children & young people - particularly females, SEN	12,245 attendances at activities aimed at children and young people in 2022/2023.
6.b	Develop pathways into physical activity accessible for everyone in the district	Develop the Physical Activity pathway - receiving referrals from First Contact Plus	2022/23	Health & Wellbeing Team, town and parish councils, community and voluntary groups, Leisure provider.	6monthly updates on Physical Activity Commissioning Plan	Increase in physical activity in the following groups People with a disability Inactive Adults Females Those in more deprived areas Rural places with limited services	New pathway is now in place, in fact First Contact has become a relatively small cog in the referral wheel with the focus moving more to self-help and referral. Active Harborough team have become facilitators to referral within the community
6.c	Develop place led physical activity opportunities - particularly for hard-to-reach groups	Supervise a team of coaches / instructors / motivators / casual staff and volunteers to deliver a range of physical activity opportunities in (district) and monitor and evaluate their success	2022/23	Health & Wellbeing Team, town and parish councils, community and voluntary groups, Leisure provider.		Increase in physical activity in the following groups People with a disability Inactive Adults Females Those in more deprived areas Rural places with limited services	Utilising the project infrastructure developed over a 5 year period, JUST targeted inactive females using existing sessions in sports clubs and local sessions with capacity for more participants suitable for women. the programme received significant exposure and a wider variety of sessions in 2022/23 we had 109 individuals take part in the programme within Harborough District alone.

6.d	Increase the health and wellbeing offer at Leisure Centres and increase participation - particularly for hard-to-reach groups		2022/23	Everyone Active Health & Wellbeing Team		Increase in physical activity in the following groups Children & Young People People with a disability Inactive Adults Females Those in more deprived areas Rural places with limited services	2868 swimming lesson memberships across the contract within Harborough district Senior sessions are running very well with 535 attendances across the contract. These sessions include Kurling, badminton, Circuits and walking Football. And badminton Dementia friendly Boccia and love to move sessions has had 63 attendances. Moving forwards will be linking in with Leicester Tigers.
6.e	Promote wellbeing at work	Promote the Wellbeing@Work Package to local businesses and schools, and for the workforce needs assessment to be undertaken by businesses/schools to identify health & wellbeing priorities and embed an action plan for their workforce.	2022/23	Health & Wellbeing Economic Development	6monthly updates on Physical Activity Commissioning Plan	Increase the business take up of Wellbeing@Work	Economic Development team continue to promote the wellbeing@work scheme through the business bulletin throughout the year.

6.f	Improve air quality in both the Kibworth's and Lutterworth	Work with other agencies to work towards delivering the outcomes of the Air Quality Action Plan and to improve the local air quality within the district.	2022/23	Regulatory Services	By continuing to monitor Air Quality throughout the district and reviewing the results, meeting our legal obligations to implement the AQMA action plans in both the Kibworth's and Lutterworth, submitting the ASR on time and taking the necessary reports to Cabinet.	Air quality monitoring	<p>An Air Quality study will be undertaken to inform the preparation of the new Local Plan. This will consider the impact of new development on existing AQMAs and the potential for wider impacts. It will be used as part of the evidence base to inform recommendations of an appropriate strategy for the location of new development.</p> <p>Air quality monitoring continues to be undertaken in the two air quality management areas in the district. There were no exceedances of the national air quality objective levels.</p> <p>The 2023 Annual Status report will be published in Quarter 3 2024/25 .</p>
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Harborough District Council Leisure Strategy 2024 - 2027

Introduction

This leisure strategy aims to outline a comprehensive plan to enhance the leisure offerings within Harborough District by referencing Sport England's strategy and the Council's strategic priorities, as well as our Physical Activity Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027 and is designed to be included as an addendum to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027.

This Strategy will provide a structured plan for promoting and developing leisure opportunities within the district. This will enable the plan to be flexible and will be able to adapt and change to meet the future leisure demands and expectations of our resident.

How does Leisure enable health and wellbeing

Below is a diagram that sets out how important our health and wellbeing is in ensuring a holistic approach to improved physical and mental health, it is important that leisure is not considered in isolation when supporting our communities health and wellbeing needs. Instead, a golden thread that can be found underpinning all the elements that make up a healthy lifestyle.



Integration and alignment of the Leisure Strategy

It is important we do not create a stand-alone Leisure Strategy but offer a comprehensive plan to enhance the leisure offerings for our residents. It is vital to integrate and align the Sport England strategy, Harborough District Council's strategic priorities, as well as our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027. By doing so, we can maximise resources and create a holistic approach to leisure development that caters to the needs of our community. By integrating these priorities, we can effectively address the leisure needs of the district, now and plan for the future.

Sport England Strategy focuses on five key priorities:

- active communities
- children and young people
- sport workforce
- infrastructure
- tackling inactivity

These priorities align well with **Harborough District Council's strategic priorities**, which include enhancing community engagement and leadership, promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices, creating sustainable environments, supporting economic growth, and promoting social inclusion.

Harborough District Council's Physical Activity Strategy emphasises the importance of physical activity in promoting healthy lifestyles. It aims to increase participation levels across all age groups by delivering targeted programmes and initiatives, improving existing facilities, and ensuring accessibility for all. This will be achieved through collaboration with sports clubs, schools, and community organisations.

The Council's **Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-27** focuses on addressing health inequalities and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing within the community. By encouraging active lifestyles, it aims to reduce the prevalence of preventable diseases and improve overall quality of life.

The strategy highlights the importance of partnerships with local health agencies and community groups to deliver effective interventions and support services.

Key Focus Areas and Objectives

The Leisure Strategy will focus on five key areas which will ensure the delivery of the objectives of this Strategy, but also support the above-mentioned strategies and policies.

1. Community Engagement and Participation:

Objective: Increase community engagement and participation in leisure activities by implementing targeted outreach programs.

- Establish regular consultation channels to gather input from residents, clubs, and organisations.
- Develop culturally inclusive programs and events to encourage participation from diverse communities.
- Provide accessible and affordable leisure opportunities for all age groups, abilities, and backgrounds.

2. Facilities Development and Enhancement:

Objective: Improve and expand leisure facilities to meet the growing demand and diverse needs of our community.

- Conduct a comprehensive audit of existing facilities, identifying areas for improvement and potential new developments.
- Secure funding through grants and partnerships to upgrade and expand existing leisure centres, sports pitches, and recreational spaces.
- Enhance accessibility and inclusivity features in all facilities, ensuring provisions for individuals with disabilities.

3. Active Lifestyles Promotion:

Objective: Foster a culture of active living and encourage a wide range of physical activities.

- Implement campaigns and initiatives to raise awareness about the benefits of physical activity and engage individuals and families.
- Collaborate with schools to promote physical activity and extracurricular sports and leisure programs.
- Provide training and support for local sports clubs, coaches, and volunteers to deliver high-quality activities.

4. Collaboration and Partnerships

Objective: Further strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise.

- Establish collaborative networks with local sports clubs, community organisations, schools, and health networks.
- Develop strategic partnerships secure additional funding and expertise.
- Share best practices and knowledge across sectors to maximise impact and efficiency.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective: Regularly assess the effectiveness and impact of leisure initiatives and make informed adjustments.

- Develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to track participation rates, satisfaction levels, and health outcomes.
- Collect and analyse data on leisure facility usage and identify trends and areas for improvement.
- Engage in regular consultations and feedback to measure the success of implemented initiatives.

Implementation and sharing outcomes.

To ensure the successful execution of this leisure strategy, an annual plan will be developed. This plan will include timelines, responsible parties, and resource allocation where appropriate. Regular reviews and adjustments will take place to accommodate changes in community needs, emerging trends, and available resources.

The Plan will be developed as part of the Council's annual business planning process, delivered as part of business as usual and reported through the Council's quarterly reporting process captured in the monitoring system, Pentana.

Harborough District Council

Report to Performance Overview and Scrutiny Meeting of 28 February 2024



Title:	Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	N/A
Report Author:	Rachael Felts – Head of Customer Services and Community Partnerships Steve Nash – Housing Services Manager
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Knight - Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing
Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix A - Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029 • Appendix B - The Evidence Base • Appendix C – Summary of Consultation • Appendix D – Equality Impact Analysis

Summary

- i. The Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029 will replace the current strategy date 2019-2024.
- ii. The new strategy covers the period for the next five years and focuses on current issues affecting social housing and homelessness, including rough sleeping, and incorporates anticipated actions and interventions required to address and alleviate issues.

Recommendations

1. To receive, consider and comment on the revised Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029.
2. To note the key priorities around new housing supply to include an increase in the supply of affordable housing, to facilitate the building of new homes suitable for those with health and disability needs and to meet the peculiar challenges of providing homes in rural locations.
3. To note the key priorities around homelessness, including the ongoing prevention of homelessness, to deal with increasing numbers of people fleeing domestic abuse, continuing to tackle rough sleeping and to look to provide more suitable temporary accommodation within the district.

Reasons for Recommendations

- i. To provide members of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Panel with the details on the Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029 which will be considered by Cabinet in March 2024.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To enable members of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Panel to have an opportunity to review the Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029 and for officers to consider any amendments or recommendations before the Strategy is taken to Cabinet in March 2024 to seek approval.

2. Background

- 2.1 This Housing and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-29 (Appendix A) will replace the current Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2019-2024.
- 2.2 To support and inform the development of the Strategy an Evidence Base Report (Appendix B) was prepared. This report presents an overview of housing and homelessness in Harborough by looking at the economic context, the level of housing need, and service users' journeys, for both priority and non-priority applicants, including their outcomes.
- 2.3 In May 2023 a housing summit was held which was a critical event in the evolution of the Strategy. The summit was attended by various organisations involved in housing issues in Harborough, including private developers, neighbouring Local Authorities and Registered Housing Providers. Views were also sought from partners who were not able to attend the summit.
- 2.4 The summit focused on the supply of affordable housing and the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping and provided a forum for discussion and ideas, along with identifying the various challenges. It enabled a shared understanding of the issues faced by the Council and its partners. These challenges are explored in more detail within the Strategy and have influenced the emerging themes, objectives and priorities that have been identified.
- 2.5 Some of the key priorities around new housing supply include to increase the supply of affordable housing, to facilitate the building of new homes suitable for those with health and disability needs and to meet the peculiar challenges of providing homes in rural locations.
- 2.6 Some of the key priorities around homelessness include continuing to try and prevent homelessness, to deal with increasing numbers of people fleeing domestic abuse, continuing to tackle rough sleeping and to look to provide more suitable temporary accommodation within the district.

3. Details

- 3.1 The updated Strategy reflects the Council's continued commitment to improving the housing conditions and opportunities for local people to secure safe and affordable accommodation against the background of a cost-of-living crisis, high interest rates and the impacts of Covid pandemic which we still continue to recover from.
- 3.2 Whilst many of the drivers impacting households in achieving their aspirations (safe and affordable homes) are outside of our control we must nonetheless put in place our best plans to mitigate the impact.

3.3 The vision for the new Strategy is:

“There is good quality and appropriate housing to meet local needs, offering choice and opportunity to our residents, including those who are vulnerable, facing homelessness or discrimination.”

3.4 The Strategy identifies three main themes each with their own priorities. The Strategies themes and priorities are below. The objectives and how these themes will be delivered is contained within the Strategy document.

Theme 1 - Housing
Priority 1 - Increasing the supply of affordable housing.
Priority 2 – Build new homes that enable people with health and disability issues and support needs to live more independently.
Priority 3 - Rural housing.
Priority 4 - Increase the focus on ensuring suitable housing is developed for people with experience of multiple disadvantages.
Priority 5 – Ensure the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community are understood.
Theme 2 - Existing Homes
Priority 1 - Improve standards in privately owned and rented housing.
Priority 2 – Enabling people to stay safe and well in their own homes.
Priority 3 – Tackling Empty Homes.
Theme 3 - Homelessness Prevention and rough sleeping
Priority 1 – Prevent homelessness where possible, and where it does occur ensure, it is rare, brief and non-recurring.
Priority 2 - Respond to an increasing number of people who become homeless as a result of experience of domestic abuse.
Priority 3 - Minimise the number and recurrence of rough sleeping instances.
Priority 4 – Ensure a suitable and sufficient supply of temporary accommodation for homeless households.

3.5 The Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping is supported by a delivery plan, which sets out what will be done, when, and by whom to enable delivery on each of the key themes and priorities. Once the Strategy is approved, a delivery plan will be developed which will dovetail with the Service Team Plan and work undertaken with partners etc. It will be reviewed periodically and revised as required to continue to meet demands on the service.

4. Implications of Decisions

Corporate Priorities

4.1 Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices.

Consultation

- 4.2 Housing Summit held in May 2023 with key partners and providers of housing/support services.
- 4.3 The Portfolio Holder has been consulted on the development of this report.
- 4.4 Key partners including Elected Members, Registered Providers and the Public have been consulted. This consultation closed on 5 February and findings of this consultation can be found at Appendix C.

Financial

- 4.5 Due to the ongoing increase in demand for temporary accommodation the revenue costs do exceed the budget provision. This Strategy aims to address this through better understanding of the supply and demand of temporary accommodation.
- 4.6 Capital investment; at the time of drafting this report, the capital programme to be presented to Council on the 26 February shows a capital allocation of £1.043m in respect of housing:
 - Plowmans Yard, £200k is allocated to the enhancement of the property. These flats are used to support temporary accommodation and therefore, during the time these flats are not use the Council incurs increased costs for alternative temporary accommodation, all of which impacts on the revenue temporary accommodation budget. Work on Plowmans Yard is expected to start early in to the new financial year.
 - 4, Roman Way, the capital investment previously allocated to this development (£843k) is to be reallocated to support the provision of alternative temporary accommodation. A business case is currently being prepared to support this work. The property itself at 4, Roman is in the process of being sold.
- 4.7 Without sufficient temporary accommodation and insufficient resource to provide housing services, this will result in increased temporary accommodation costs to the Council.

Legal

- 4.8 The Strategy identifies current areas of legislation and the impact of new legislation which enables the Council in the delivery of homes and support for those facing homelessness.

Environmental Implications

- 4.9 Whilst there are no direct environmental implications for this report, the Council does ensure it provides assistance to support vulnerable residents to help their homes with advice around energy efficiency and warmer homes. The council will continue to do this where possible.

Risk Management

- 4.10 There are several factors which could have an impact on the implementation of this Strategy, which include the unknown impact on continued cost of living, incidents of domestic abuse and those with no homes. During the five-year period of the strategy, new priorities may emerge, and national policy may shift its focus. The Strategy will be kept under review to ensure that its themes and priorities remain relevant and appropriate.
- 4.11 Through ongoing monitoring of the strategy and demands on the service, this will go some way to ensure sufficient resources to provide the service and less impact on costs for temporary accommodation.

Equalities Impact

4.12 An Equality Impact Analysis (Appendix D) has been completed and is attached to this report.

Data Protection

4.13 There are no data protection issues with this report.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 Without the Housing and the Prevention of Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 to 2029 the Council would not have a strategic document that sets out the vision, themes, priorities, and objectives for the district. There would be no clear plan on how the Council would work towards meeting the housing aspirations and needs of residents, including those who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness and those experiencing, or at risk of rough sleeping.

6. Recommendation

6.1 To consider and comment on the revised Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2024-2029 and the key priorities around new housing supply and homelessness.

7. Background papers

7.1 Not applicable for this report.



STRATEGY FOR HOUSING AND THE PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING 2024 – 2029

February 2024

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Foreword

Most people living in Harborough District enjoy a good quality of life. However, housing affordability, access to services in rural areas, poor health and disability and ongoing cost of living pressures are significant issues for some. Ensuring the environmental sustainability of existing homes and better standards in new housing developments is also a major challenge.

Our previous Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping, 2019-2024 covered a challenging period, which saw the COVID-19 pandemic, which we still continue to recover from along with the ongoing pressures on our residents associated with the cost of living increases. Despite this we have been able to make significant progress in meeting the objectives set out in our previous Strategy.

This new Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homeless and Rough Sleeping, covers the period 2024 to 2029 and reflects our continued commitment to improving the housing conditions and opportunities for local people.

Suitable accommodation is an essential human need, contributing considerably to health and wellbeing. The impact of poor housing conditions and homelessness on physical and mental health are well known and can result in significant pressure on public services. Our Strategy sets out how we will strive to ensure that everyone has a home that meets their needs and they can afford. Enabling local people to continue to live locally in the district also contributes to the success and growth of our local economy and the communities within our district.

We can achieve this by continuing to deliver appropriate new homes, whilst making good use of existing housing. We will seek to meet the specific housing needs of older people and others who require more support.

We thank our partners and everyone who contributed to the development of this Strategy. To be able to realise the ambitions of our new Strategy we will continue to work with our partners recognising that they are key to successfully delivering the Strategy's objectives. The key themes and priorities set out in the Strategy are where we will focus our efforts over the next five years: the delivery of good quality affordable housing; improving the condition of existing homes and preventing and addressing homelessness and rough sleeping.

Cllr Jim Knight

Portfolio Holder

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Housing and the Prevention of Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 to 2029 is a strategic document that sets out the vision, themes, priorities and objectives for our district. It describes how we work towards meeting the housing aspirations and needs of our residents, including those who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness and those experiencing, or at risk of rough sleeping.

ABOUT HARBOROUGH DISTRICT

- 1.2 Harborough District (Harborough) is located in the heart of England.
- 1.3 It is a mainly rural district covering an area of 238 square miles of south and east Leicestershire. It is within the East Midlands Region, bordering Warwickshire to the west, Northamptonshire to the south and Rutland to the east. The population is mainly split between the two market towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth; large villages of Broughton Astley, Great Glen, Fleckney, Kibworth (Beauchamp and Harcourt); as well as Scaptoft, Thurnby and Bushby which adjoin the Leicester Urban Area. The remaining population live in the smaller rural settlements, many of which have a population of less than 500.
- 1.4 Harborough cannot be viewed in isolation from its adjoining areas: it shares economic and housing markets with the other district councils in Leicestershire and particularly with the city of Leicester, which has a central economic role in the county. Leicester is a particularly important source of employment opportunities. There is cross boundary travel to work as well as people moving house across council boundaries, both within Leicestershire and to and from surrounding areas.

FACTS ABOUT THE AREA¹

- **Population:** current population is 97,600, the district has experienced growth of more than 14% over the past decade (Census 2021). The population is projected to increase to more than 105,000 residents by 2041.
- **Age profile:** 22% of the population is over 65, with 10% being over 75. The projections across Leicestershire are for a 42% increase in the over 65s and a 50% increase in the over 75s by 2041.
- **Employment:** 79% of the population are in employment, this being above the average for England.
- **Annual Pay:** Median gross annual pay of full-time employees is £34,000 (2022). Although this is higher than the East Midlands it is similar to Leicestershire and the national average.

¹ All data is 2023 unless otherwise stated.

- **Claimant count:** In August 2023 1.6% of residents who were aged 16+ were claiming unemployment related benefits. This is lower than in surrounding districts.
- **Health and Disability:** 45% of the population aged 65 and over are currently living with a long-term health problem or disability. This percentage is forecast to increase by 71% by 2041.
- **Existing housing:** 77% of homes are owner occupied, 14% privately rented and 9% affordable housing. Housing condition is generally better than average, but poor standards still exist and the cost of living pressures are compounding this, particularly in relation to problems with damp and mould.
- **House prices:** The average house price is £376,000, the highest in Leicestershire, having increased by 16% since 2019.
- **Market rents:** The average private market rent of £840 per month is higher than the average rent for Leicestershire.
- **Affordability:** Properties to buy and rent are less affordable in Harborough than the other districts in Leicestershire.

HOUSING NEED

- **All Tenures:** The Harborough Local Plan 2011 – 2031 sets a target for additional homes across all tenures of 557 new dwellings per year. A new Local Plan is currently being prepared and is expected to be adopted during the lifetime of this strategy.
- **Affordable Housing:** The new Local Plan will consult on a requirement for 40% of new homes to be provided as affordable housing.
- **Specialist Housing:** There is a need for good quality homes to meet specific housing and support needs. It is estimated that there will be a shortfall in supply of 1500 homes (all tenures excluding residential care and nursing home places) specifically designed to meet the care and support needs of older people by 2041.
- **Number on the Housing Register:** There are 857 households currently registered with Harborough Homes waiting to secure the tenancy of an affordable home.
- **Homelessness:** During 2022/23 640 households approached the Council for advice and help due to homelessness or the threat of homelessness.

THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES:

- 1.5 This Strategy supports the Council's wider corporate objectives.
- 1.6 The following diagram illustrates the linkages between the various strategic documents.
- 1.7 Insert diagram
- 1.8 The Council's Corporate Plan 2022-31 includes the ambition to:
- "...ensure there is housing to meet local needs of people of all ages."*
- 1.9 The Plan's aspiration in respect of new developments is to:
- ".... create a sense of pride in our district by ensuring that we build and create new, resilient communities that recognise the unique nature of the district, with a strong focus on good design to ensure developments are in line with our agreed planning guidance. We will look to ensure that housing across a range of prices and tenures is available to meet local demand and help our residents to remain in the district.....and to reduce the potential for homelessness."*
- 1.10 The Plan recognises the important role housing has to play in assisting with meeting the objective to promote health and wellbeing, particularly around living independently
- "Our residents will be able to live more independent lives, with the right support and guidance in place to allow this."*
- 1.11 This is further reflected in the Council's Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027, which has a cross cutting theme of "Quality Homes for All", recognising that poor housing conditions can have a negative effect on a persons health. It has the following objectives:
- Promote high design standards for new housing;
 - Improve living accommodation within the district;
 - Support vulnerable adults and older people to remain independent in their homes;
 - Provide energy efficiency advice and measures; and
 - Build services and pathways to housing for vulnerable groups.
- 1.12 The Young Persons Opportunities Plan 2023-2028 has an objective of increasing awareness and availability of suitable and affordable housing for young people.
- 1.13 The Rural Strategy 2023-2028 has an ambition to meet rural housing needs and ensure rural homes are fit for the 21st century working with local landowners and developers to provide high quality housing that is genuinely affordable and designed to help combat fuel poverty.

- 1.14 Other relevant strategies include the Empty Homes Strategy which sets out the Councils approach to bringing empty properties back into use and the Private Sector Renewal Strategy. Through the Lightbulb Partnership, the Regulatory Reform Order provides wider support for vulnerable residents to remain in their homes through alternative interventions than the mandatory disabled facilities grants. The Regulatory Reform Order also enables the Council to use specific Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding for wider purposes, supporting our strategic priorities which integrate health, wellbeing and housing, for the benefit of local residents.
- 1.15 The Council recognises that most landlords provide an essential supply of good quality, well managed accommodation. However, where necessary the Council will take appropriate enforcement action against landlords to ensure tenants are living in safe and suitable accommodation. The Council introduced Financial Penalties for non-compliance with relevant legislation as an alternative to prosecution during 2023.
- 1.16 The Housing and the Prevention of Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 to 2029 has been developed taking into account the wider Council strategic objectives, which are reflected in the themes and priorities that have been identified.

THE HARBOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

- 1.17 The Local Plan is the Council's principal planning policy document and sets out the vision, objectives, and planning policies for the Harborough District.
- 1.18 A new Local Plan is being produced and this Strategy sets out the housing priorities that need to be considered as part of the development of the new Plan.
- 1.19 The currently adopted Local Plan runs from 2011 - 2031 and has the following vision for the development of new homes:

“New housing will reflect local needs in terms of type, size and tenure and enable equality of access to suitable accommodation. Older people will have increased access to accommodation to suit their changing needs and affordable homes will have been delivered to enable a new generation of home owners to get onto the housing ladder and to meet the needs of those unable to afford market housing for sale.”

- 1.20 Specifically, the current Local Plan includes a requirement for a number of new properties on allocated sites to be accessible by people with disabilities.

OVERVIEW OF THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

- 1.21 External factors have a significant impact on the delivery of the Housing and the Prevention of Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy. The following will continue to have an impact on our operating environment over the coming years.
 - Slow economic growth forecast for the UK economy, which impacts on the prosperity of our district and our residents.

- Impact of new legislation such as the Environment Act, the Social Housing (Regulation) Act, Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act, the Levelling and Regeneration Act/Bill, Renters Reform Act/Bill.
- Uncertainty around national policy that affect us at a local level, for example changes to planning policy.
- The increased standards to improve energy efficiency and meet net zero carbon targets for both new and existing homes.
- Continued volatility in markets both locally and nationally, with concerns remaining around costs of energy, materials and supply chains.
- The cost of living pressures for our residents.
- The financial constraints and pressures on the Council and its partners as a result of all of the factors in the external environment.

2 Achievements from the previous Strategy (2019 – 2024)

NEW HOUSING SUPPLY

- The last five years has witnessed a step up in affordable housing completions. 2021-22 provided the highest number of annual affordable home completions homes, with the delivery of 231 affordable properties.
- A more focused, proactive approach to working with developers and Registered Providers (RP) leading to earlier engagement through the planning process and improved delivery of affordable housing.
- Increased supply of shared ownership homes to assist in meeting the need for more affordable home ownership.
- Undertook research and hosted a workshop for partners to gain a better understanding of the reasons for the low supply of 1 bed flats in the district, resulting in the identification of options to address the shortfall.
- In partnership with Platform Housing Group and supported by a financial contribution from the Council we were able to provide much needed family accommodation at the Rosehill development including 4 homes with 4 bedrooms and a home with 5 bedrooms. These would not have been delivered without our intervention.
- By working with RP partners we were able to convert a market housing scheme to a totally affordable housing scheme, comprising 27 brand new homes, including 4 bedroom houses and bungalows, thus increasing the supply of much needed affordable housing.

EXISTING HOMES

- Prior to the recent rise in fuel costs, improvements were being made year on year in reducing fuel poverty.
- Enabled the installation of insulation to 1,295 homes using ECO3 funding, saving around 43,102 tonnes of carbon across the lifetime of the measures.
- Licensed all applicable Houses in Multiple Occupation.
- Responded quickly to the Homes for Ukraine scheme, ensuring safe housing for refugees.

- Reduced the number of long term empty homes from 528 in 2020 to 443 at February 2024.
- Supported the countywide Lightbulb Partnership to enable vulnerable residents to remain safe and well in their own homes, including adaptations, affordable warmth and preventing falls.
- Through the Lightbulb Partnership, enabled more targeted support including:
 - Safe Spaces, a multi-agency approach to dealing with hoarding issues.
 - Introduction of a Housing Occupational Therapist to reduce delays in patients returning home from hospital.
 - Assistive Technology and Dementia service to help people remain independent and improve their confidence.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- Maintained low levels of homelessness and rough sleeping during the early years of the Strategy.
- Continued to deliver an effective advice and assistance service to people facing homelessness, seeking to prevent this where possible.
- Minimised the use of B&B as temporary accommodation for 16/17 year olds and families with children, this now being a rare occurrence.
- Established an outreach service for rough sleepers, in partnership with North West Leicestershire District Council.
- Reviewed our policy for lettings to affordable housing, Harborough Homes, to ensure it is transparent, fair and accessible to all.
- Introduced a new case management system to improve the efficiency of our service.

3 Consultation

- 3.1 In developing our new Strategy we have consulted with a wide range of partner agents.
- 3.2 In May 2023 we held a Housing Summit which was a critical event in the evolution of the Strategy. The Summit was attended by various organisations involved in housing issues in Harborough, including private developers, neighbouring Local Authorities and RPs. We also sought views from partners who were not able to attend the Summit.
- 3.3 The Summit focused on the supply of affordable housing and the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping in particular and provided a forum for discussion and ideas, along with identifying the various challenges. These challenges are explored in more detail under the individual Strategy themes.
- 3.4 The Summit enabled a shared understanding of the issues facing the Council and its partners and has made a key contribution to the contents of the Strategy.
- 3.5 It has influenced the emerging themes, objectives and priorities that have been identified and we have subsequently checked and tested them with our partners to ensure they are the right ones.
- 3.6 Following the production of the draft Strategy we undertook a consultation with partners, stakeholders and local residents in January/February 2024.
- 3.7 This consultation provided a positive response with support for the themes, priorities and objectives identified. Our partners, including organisations from the RP and supported housing sectors expressed their willingness and enthusiasm to work collaboratively with us to deliver our strategic objectives.

4 The Vision for our Strategy

4.1 The vision for our new Strategy is:

“There is good quality and appropriate housing to meet local needs, offering choice and opportunity to our residents, including those who are vulnerable, facing homelessness or discrimination.”

5 Themes and priorities

5.1 The themes and priorities for the Strategy are set out in the following sections, along with the challenges we have identified.

5.2 The themes for our Strategy are:

Theme 1 - Housing need

Theme 2 - Existing Homes

Theme 3 - Homelessness Prevention and rough sleeping

6 Theme 1 – Housing Need

THE CHALLENGES

Meeting Housing Need

- 6.1 The 'Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment' 2022 (HENA) estimates that in order to meet housing need across all tenures, 534 additional homes per annum are required between 2020 and 2041. The need for affordable housing results in a requirement for around 400 affordable homes per year throughout the period of this strategy.
- 6.2 There are around 857 households on the Housing Register and most are under 55.
- 6.3 The number of lettings in 2022/23 was 273, around 200 of these were new build properties, demonstrating the low rate of turn over of the existing stock of affordable homes. If new build completions decline as is forecast this will exacerbate this problem further.
- 6.4 The longest waits for accommodation through the Housing Register is for four and five bedroom homes, at 576 and 595 days respectively. For applicants for 1 bed homes the wait is an average of 291 days.
- 6.5 The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2017 identified a need for 5 additional pitches and 26 pitches for travelling show people. (A new GTAA is currently in progress).

Affordability

- 6.6 Homes in Harborough are 21% more expensive than the average for Leicestershire and 39% higher than the East Midlands regional average.
- 6.7 Lower quartile house price, at £255,000, is 18% more expensive than the lower quartile house price for Leicestershire and 46% higher than for the East Midlands.
- 6.8 Median and lower quartile house prices are more than nine times higher than median and lower quartile incomes. This makes Harborough is the least affordable district in Leicestershire.
- 6.9 The average private rent is £720 per month for a 2-bed property.
- 6.10 Average private sector rents are generally above the level of benefits payable to assist those on low incomes with their housing costs.. For example, a lower quartile rent for a 2-bed property is £650 per month, whilst the Local Housing Allowance (used to calculate Housing Benefit for tenants renting from a private landlord) is only £580 per month. The Local Housing Allowance is due to be increased from April 2024 but the gap will remain significant.

Housing Supply

- 6.11 Over the last 5 years an average of 850 new homes per year of all tenures have been built. The new Local Plan is currently being developed with a target of 340 new dwellings per year between 2020 and 2041, this is over and above existing development commitments during this period.
- 6.12 New affordable homes delivery has been above the level specified in the current Local Plan over the last 5 years, with an average of 200 homes per year being completed.
- 6.13 Over the next 5 years 179 new affordable homes per annum are forecast to be completed. This reduction in delivery reflects the challenging economic environment and the financial constraints and pressures impacting on development partners.
- 6.14 There is a lack of affordable housing in rural areas due to limited development opportunities and the reduction in the number of existing affordable homes as a result of the impact of the Right to Buy.
- 6.15 Owner occupation is the main tenure in Harborough, with the private rented sector (at 14% of total stock) being one of the lowest in Leicestershire. This is considerably below the national average of 20% of dwellings being for private rent.
- 6.16 The HENA advises that 40% of all new affordable homes should be 1 bedroom, however in the last 5 years less than 20% of all affordable homes built have been 1 bedroom.

Priority 1 Increasing the supply of affordable housing

Objective: To secure the development of appropriate affordable housing and attract housing investment into Harborough.

What we will do:

- 6.17 Build effective working relationships with appropriate housing development partners to provide new affordable homes across a range of tenures.
- 6.18 Work with RPs and developers that are able to offer options for affordable homeownership to assist working-age residents to remain in Harborough.
- 6.19 Provide leadership in seeking to ensure that homes are designed to increase energy efficiency and are built to a high standard, enhancing the neighbourhoods in which they are built.
- 6.20 Build relationships with Government Agencies to maximise public sector funding opportunities.
- 6.21 Identify opportunities for external finance and investment to help secure development opportunities.
- 6.22 Work with RP partners to identify and bring forward land opportunities that are particularly suitable for affordable housing.

- 6.23 Ensure, wherever possible, that Local planning policy is applied to maximise the delivery of affordable homes within new housing developments.
- 6.24 Increase the number of homes delivered through the “First Homes” initiative.
- 6.25 Explore options identified in our recent research into this issue to increase the supply of 1-bedroom homes.
- 6.26 Establish the opportunities for commercial premises, such as redundant shops and office space, to be converted to provide homes.

Priority 2 – Build new homes that enable people with health and disability issues and support needs to live more independently

Objective: To increase the supply of specialist housing to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as those who require support with mental health, learning and physical disabilities or young people leaving care.

What we will do:

- 6.27 Work with partners to develop supported housing schemes that respond to the identified needs of older people.
- 6.28 Work in partnership with Leicestershire County Council Adult Social Care and Specialist Extra Care Housing Providers, to more fully understand demand and the investment required to provide appropriate accommodation.
- 6.29 Progress the proposed extra care housing schemes at Lutterworth East as part of the strategic development of that site.
- 6.30 Progress plans, in partnership to develop a multi-use facility which include extra care housing in Market Harborough.
- 6.31 Incentivise developers, using innovative approaches in planning to enable the provision of bungalows on a site-by-site basis.
- 6.32 Work with our RP Partners to devise more robust processes to streamline access to new supported/adapted accommodation.

Priority 3 - Address housing affordability and supply issues in rural communities

Objective: To meet rural housing needs and ensure new rural homes are fit for the future.

What we will do:

- 6.33 Support the development of new good quality homes in rural areas,, contributing to the economic viability and sustainability of those communities.
- 6.34 Ensure there is appropriate evidence of the need for affordable housing in rural settlements, supported by a robust local Housing Needs Survey and including starter and retirement homes.

- 6.35 Involve parish councils and communities in the development of planning policy ensuring they have the opportunity to inform decisions on how development impacts on their area. Including supporting and enabling the development of Neighbourhood Plans.
- 6.36 Encourage housing development that supports good community connections and engagement between new and existing residents, where possible incorporating community led housing schemes.
- 6.37 Work with developers and local communities to ensure new housing development includes appropriate investment in infrastructure.

Priority 4 - Increase the focus on ensuring suitable housing is developed for people with experience of multiple disadvantage

Objective: To recognise the particular needs of this cohort and increase the opportunity to access appropriate housing solutions.

What we will do:

- 6.38 Work with partners to maximise funding opportunities to increase the supply of appropriate housing for young people, this should be self contained accommodation whenever possible.
- 6.39 Work with Leicestershire County Council to meet identified need, ensuring the right safe accommodation is available for people who have experienced domestic abuse.
- 6.40 Work with partner agencies, to respond to and address gaps in housing provision for individuals with specific mental or physical health needs, where lack of suitable accommodation is identified as being particularly acute.

Priority 5 – To increase our understanding of the accommodation needs of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community

Objective: To ensure the housing needs of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community are recognised and suitable provision made.

What we will do:

- 6.41 Carry out a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) jointly with neighbouring Local Authorities. This will update the previous needs assessment and inform the relevant policy in the new Local Plan.
- 6.42 Utilise the outcomes to update the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller needs assessment to inform and support the implementation of the new Local Plan as well as identifying where the Council needs to be proactive in developing sites.

7 Theme 2 – Existing Homes

THE CHALLENGES

- 7.1 Increasing levels of fuel poverty since 2017, now affecting over 4,000 households.
- 7.2 Identifying and tackling poor standards, particularly in the private rented sector and homes occupied by vulnerable people.
- 7.3 Making the transition to net zero carbon and the need to reduce carbon emissions recognising the particular characteristics of the district such as the number of homes in rural areas, more houses and few flats and large number of properties built before 1900.
- 7.4 Increasing demand for home adaptations for people with physical disabilities - the number of applications for adaptations has steadily increased from 73 in 2019 to 86 in 2023.
- 7.5 Bringing the number of empty homes back in to use. As at the end of Q2 23/24 there were 806, of which 136 had been unused for over two years.

Priority 1 - Improve standards in privately owned and rented housing

Objective: Improve living conditions and increase environmental performance of homes in the private sector.

What we will do:

- 7.6 Continue to work with the Green Living Leicestershire Partnership to access funding from National Government to deliver retrofit programmes for low income households in the least efficient homes.
- 7.7 Continue to support delivery of the 'Warm Homes Project' and 'Collective Energy Switching.'
- 7.8 Ensure Houses in Multiple Occupation and other shared houses are safe and well managed, meeting all legal requirements.
- 7.9 Work with private landlords and housing associations to ensure that the properties they let are of good quality and managed effectively, taking enforcement action where necessary.
- 7.10 Ensure residential caravan sites are appropriately licensed, managed, and maintained appropriately

Priority 2 – Enabling people to stay safe and well in their own homes

Objective: Provide adaptations, assistive technology and other support that enable people with disabilities or health issues to live in their own homes for longer.

What we will do:

- 7.11 Continue our support to the Leicestershire Lightbulb Partnership².
- 7.12 Work with health, social care and community partners to identify people with the highest need for our support and target our offer to them.

Priority 3 – Tackling Empty Homes

Objective: Reduce the number of long term empty homes and manage the impact these have on our communities

What we will do:

- 7.13 Review our policy and procedures relating to empty homes to ensure we have appropriate tools in place to deal with these, including exploring opportunities to lease properties with other agencies.
- 7.14 Work proactively with owners of empty homes to assist them in bringing their properties back into use for housing.
- 7.15 Make best use of enforcement powers where appropriate to reduce the impact of problematic, long-term empty properties.
- 7.16 Raise awareness and ensure the public are informed about the Councils approach to addressing empty homes.

² This is subject to consideration by the Cabinet in 2024.

8 Theme 3 - Preventing homelessness and rough sleeping

THE CHALLENGES

- 8.1 Increasing number of people presenting to the Council as actually homeless or seeking information and advice, this service demand has more than doubled from 306 in 2019/20 to 640 in 2022/23.
- 8.2 The number of households assessed as homeless and owed a relief duty³ has more than tripled over the past five years from 49 in 2018/19 to 182 in 2022/23.
- 8.3 Increasing numbers of people are owed a relief duty having lost their previous home through experience of domestic abuse – in 2022/23 this related to 51 applicants, 28% of applicants owed a relief duty.
- 8.4 Insufficient, suitable temporary accommodation within Harborough – around 70% of placements are out of area. Specifically, there is a gap in provision of domestic abuse safe accommodation across Leicestershire compared to the level recommended by the Commission for Europe (1 space per 10,000 population which would equate to 70 units). In 2022 there were only 21 units of safe accommodation, a gap of 49 spaces,
- 8.5 For applicants owed a relief duty in 2022/23, the main reasons for loss of their last settled home were domestic abuse (28%), family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (28%) and end of assured shorthold (private rented) tenancy (17%).
- 8.6 Where a main duty⁴ is assessed (applicant is homeless, eligible, in priority need and not intentionally homeless), the main reason for having a priority need is that the household has dependent children. However, the number of people who are vulnerable (due to age, physical or mental health or domestic abuse) has increased in recent years.
- 8.7 Rising cost of temporary accommodation – the Council spent over £280,000 on temporary accommodation for homeless households during 2022/23, an increase of 40% on expenditure during 2019/20.
- 8.8 Housing insecurity, particularly in the private rented sector. During 2022/23 57% of households owed a prevention duty were homeless as a result of loss of a private rented home.
- 8.9 Lack of affordable housing for single people under 35 is a problem due to the lack of suitable one-bedroom and shared properties. The local housing allowance rates applied to private rented housing restricts benefit payable for this age group to a single room in a shared house.

³ Where temporary accommodation is provided pending assessment of a main duty to secure accommodation.

⁴ Applicant is homeless, eligible, in priority need and not intentionally homeless.

Priority 1 – prevent homelessness where possible, and where it does occur ensure it is rare, brief and non-recurring

Objective: Focus our activity on prevention and early intervention to support those threatened with homelessness and adopt a person centred response to supporting and accommodating those who become homeless.

What we will do:

- 8.10 Review the adequacy of our resources dedicated to preventing homelessness and seek to ensure this is given the priority it requires.
- 8.11 Continue to respond to approaches from people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in a way that is person centred, trauma informed, appropriate and timely.
- 8.12 Work with landlords seeking to end a tenancy, resulting in a threat of homelessness, to prevent eviction wherever possible.
- 8.13 Work with social care, health, criminal justice and the voluntary sector to ensure appropriate support is in place for individuals who have experienced multiple disadvantage and who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and ensure a multi-agency approach to delivery⁵.
- 8.14 Support private landlords and registered providers to bring homes in their ownership, including empty homes, into use for those who are homeless and/or who have more complex housing and support needs.

Priority 2 - Respond to an increasing number of people who become homeless as a result of experience of domestic abuse.

Objective: Increase the number of units of safe accommodation for people experiencing domestic abuse in Harborough.

What we will do:

- 8.15 Work with Leicestershire County Council to identify opportunities to provide safe accommodation within Harborough and work with partners to deliver suitable homes.
- 8.16 Develop and strengthen relationships with agencies that provide accommodation and support those who are experiencing domestic abuse in Leicestershire.
- 8.17 Seek to provide a smooth transition in to move-on and permanent accommodation for those made homeless as a result of domestic abuse.

⁵ Multi-agency protocols already exist demonstrating how we will work together to support young people leaving care, 16/17 year olds, people leaving prison and being discharged from hospital. These will continue to be developed.

Priority 3 - Minimise the number and recurrence of rough sleeping instances.

Objective: Work with partner agencies to quickly identify a rough sleeping situation and ensure the most appropriate and sustainable accommodation and support solution for every individual rough sleeper.

What we will do:

- 8.19 Continue to work closely with statutory and voluntary services, including the countywide outreach service, to identify rough sleepers and support the first stage in their recovery journey.
- 8.20 Identify any gaps in supported housing provision for specific client groups or individuals and develop creative solutions to meet their needs, for example, Housing First.
- 8.21 Review the reasons for repeat rough sleeping and homelessness and work with partners to put arrangements in place to prevent this 'revolving door' of homelessness.

Priority 4 – Ensure a suitable and sufficient supply of temporary accommodation for homeless households

Objective: Develop and deliver a plan to increase the supply of good quality, temporary accommodation within Harborough to meet needs, and specifically to prevent the need for 16/17 year olds and families with children to be placed in B&B.

What we will do:

- 8.22 Gain greater understanding of unmet need for temporary accommodation, in terms of numbers, type and location, to enable regular robust forecasting and forward planning..
- 8.23 Explore alternative options for creating additional temporary accommodation including, flats above shops, the 'spare room model' and leasing arrangements.
- 8.24 Work with RP partners to establish whether there are opportunities in their existing stock to use homes as temporary accommodation (for example, difficult to let accommodation).
- 8.25 Research the funding opportunities available to support the provision of temporary accommodation.
- 8.26 Review the viability of investment of Council resources in provision of temporary accommodation and develop a Business Case and Procurement Strategy by Autumn 2024.
- 8.27 Work pro-actively with partners to source and deliver opportunities that will provide additional units of temporary accommodation in line with the Strategy.

9 The Evidence Base

- 9.1 The Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping is supported by a range of evidence, which is summarised in the associated Evidence Base document which contains the full data and background information.

10 Monitoring and Review

- 10.1 The Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping is supported by a delivery plan, which sets out what will be done, when, and by whom to enable delivery on each of the key themes and priorities.
- 10.2 During the 5 year period of the strategy, new priorities may emerge and national policy may shift its focus. The Strategy will be kept under review to ensure that its themes and priorities remain relevant and appropriate.
- 10.3 It will be reviewed periodically, along with the supporting action plans.

11 Glossary

Affordable Housing

Housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions: Housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers) – the National Planning Policy Framework [National Planning Policy Framework - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/292459/NPPF-2019.pdf) provides the latest definition.

Community led housing

Housing which has been built or improved and brought back into use by local people living within a community.

Disabled Facilities Grant

The statutory Disabled Facilities Grant regime provides the framework that enables the Council to administer grants for aids and adaptations to help residents remain independent in their own home for longer

Extra care housing

The term 'extra care' housing is used to describe developments that comprise self-contained homes with design features and care and support services available to enable self- care and independent living.

Harborough District Local Plan

The plan that sets out detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land in Harborough District. It guides most planning decisions.

The Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment 2022

Provides updated evidence regarding the overall need for housing including the type and mix needed which is then used to inform local and strategic plans in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Older person's household

A household where all members are over 65.

Registered Provider

The term registered provider is defined in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 as a provider of social housing.

Regulatory Reform Order

The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (RRO), enables local authorities to set their own policy for helping households maintain and adapt their homes so that they are safe for people to live in.



Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-29 – The Evidence Base

December 2023

Source of Data and Acknowledgement

Data

Data has been sourced from the following:
Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment April 2022
Office of National Statistics
Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities
Harborough District Council

Acknowledgement

This report is based on the excellent tool available to members of the Local Government Association (LGA) to enable them to review their homelessness data and compare this with other groups of authorities. We have selected to compare Harborough with the other districts in the East Midlands. Where we believe it is important to consider trends over a longer period than the LGA report we have analysed the tables available on the Government website and included them in this document. We have also added commentary about the statistics based on our knowledge and that of our partner agencies concerned with homelessness in Harborough. The report presents an overview of housing and homelessness in Harborough by looking at the economic context, the level of housing need, and service users' journeys, for both priority and non-priority applicants, including their outcomes. The LGA report has been extended to include other evidence, including longer term trends in homelessness derived from the data available on the Government website

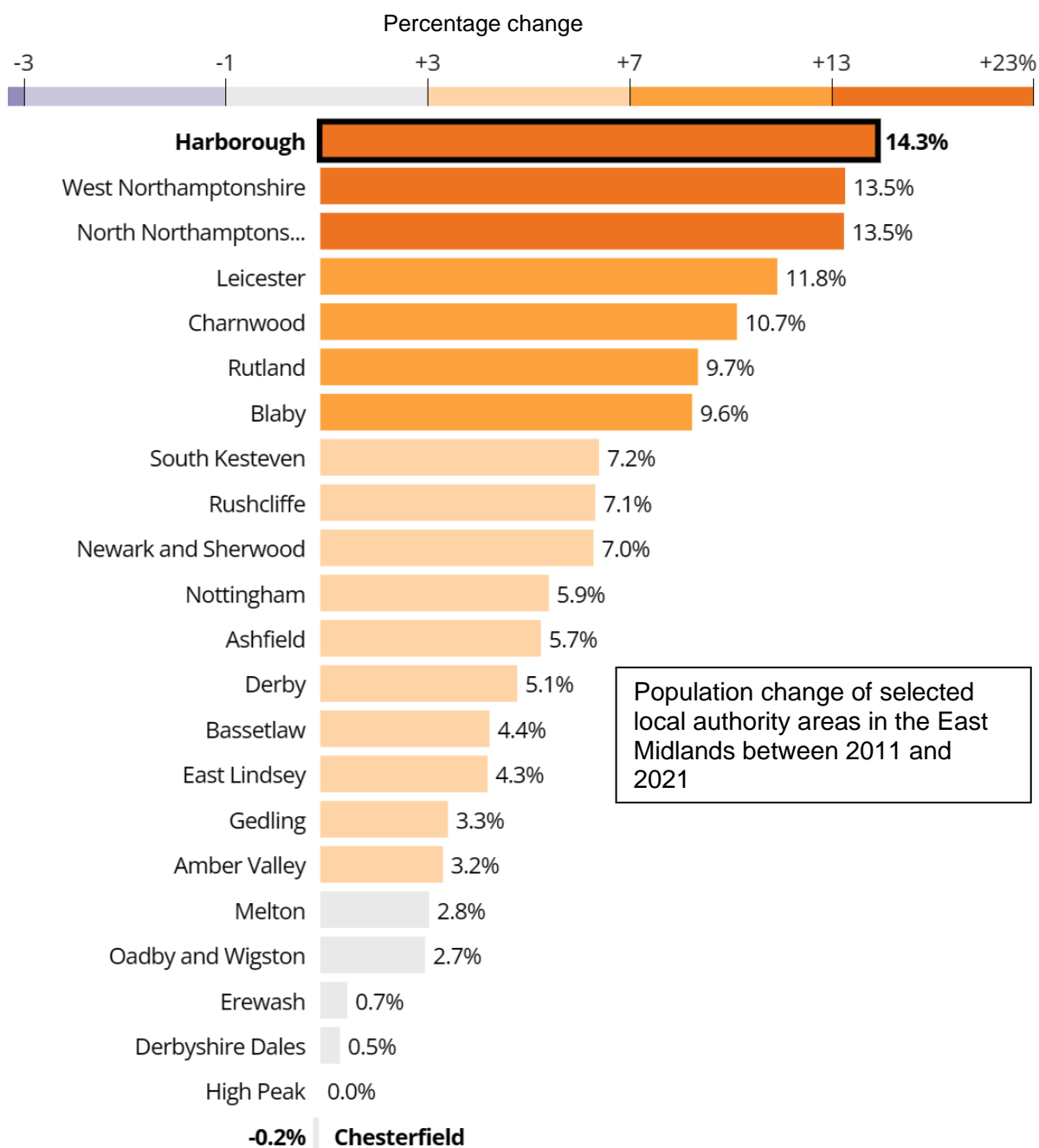
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1 Population

CHANGE IN POPULATION

In Harborough, the population size has increased by 14.3%, from around 85,400 in 2011 to 97,600 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England where the population grew by 6.6% over the same period.

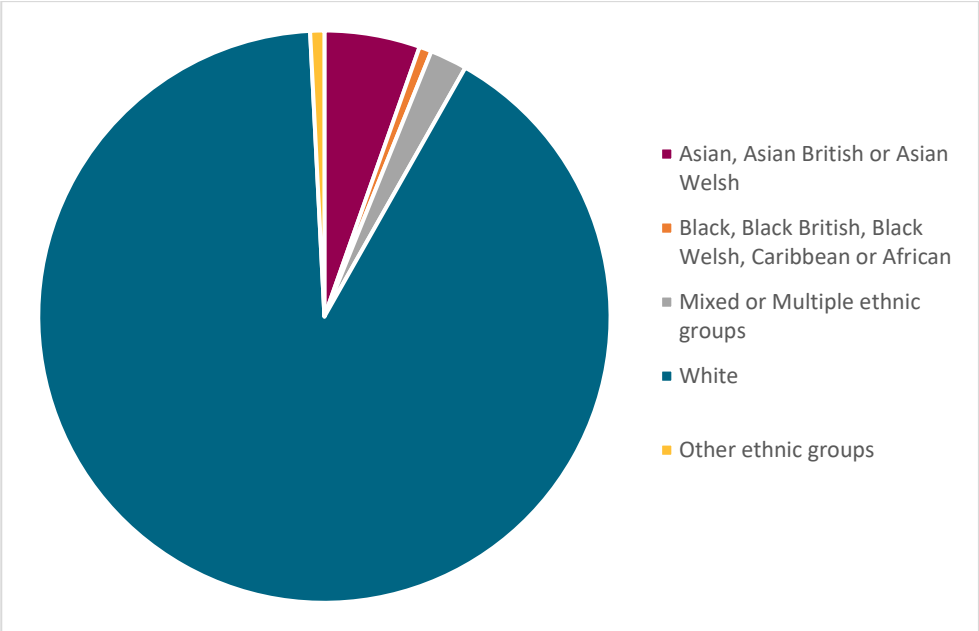


The largest population increase in the East Midlands has been seen in Harborough. By comparison the lowest is in Chesterfield with a fall of 0.2%.

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

There has been an increase of 38.5% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 10.1% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 5.2% in children aged under 15 years.

POPULATION BY ETHNIC GROUP



2021	%
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	5.4
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	0.7
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	2.1
White	91
Other ethnic groups	0.8

Source: ONS Census 2021

2 Local Economic Context

This section provides a summary overview of the local economic context for Harborough District (Harborough), more detailed information can be found in the.

MEASURES OF LOCAL DEPRIVATION

The Indices of Deprivation combine a range of economic, social and housing indicators to provide a measure of relative deprivation.

- Harborough is ranked **306 most deprived** out of 317 authorities – based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) average rank.*
- Harborough is ranked **307 most deprived** out of 317 authorities – based on the IMD average score.**
- None of Harborough's neighbourhoods are in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally. This is a measure of the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income.
- Specifically, with regards to income deprivation, Harborough is ranked **281 most deprived** out of 317 authorities – based on the IMD average rank.

*This measure is based on population weighted ranks of all neighbourhoods within an area, so an area that is more uniformly deprived will tend to rank higher on this measure. It is a weighted average measuring deprivation across income, employment, health and disability, education skills and training, barriers to housing and services, living environment and Crime.

**This measure is based on population weighted scores of all neighbourhoods within an area.

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Indices of deprivation 2019

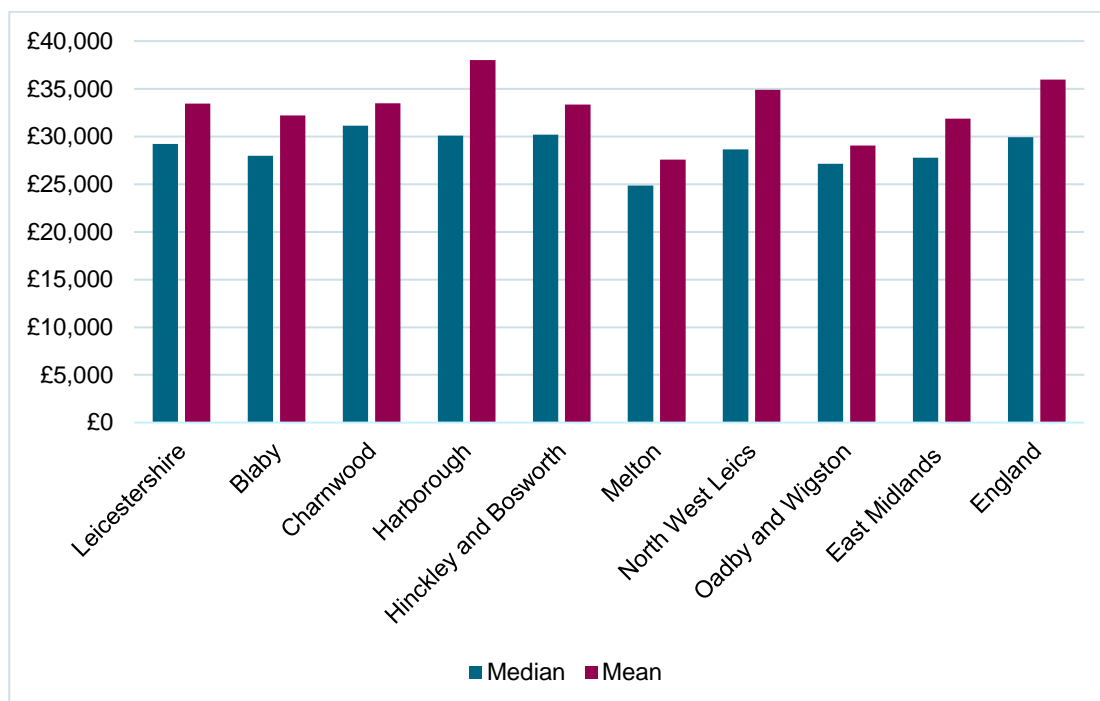
OVERALL EMPLOYMENT RATE

Harborough has an overall employment rate (aged 16 – 64) of 79.4% for the 12 months ending at Q2 2023 this has increased from 76.5% for the previous 12 month period. This is above the figure for all local authority districts in the East Midlands of 76.4% and above the England figure of 75.8%.

EARNINGS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE BY LOCAL AUTHORITY:

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) provides information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours worked for employees. This data provides information about earnings of employees who are living in an area, who are on adult rates and whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence. This data therefore provides some useful context in terms of potential economic and financial resilience.

Gross average and median pay



In Harborough, average gross annual earnings (November 2023) are £38,119 this is above the East Midlands figure of £31,865 and above the England figure of £35,995.

Sources: Earnings and hours worked, place of residence by local authority: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings Table 8.7A mean and median gross annual pay of employees – provisional November 2023.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

This data set highlights the total number of people claiming Universal Credit, including the numbers of those in and out of employment. The number of claimants in/out of employment are released one month later than the overall total. The latest month's total for overall number of people claiming is provisional.

4,886 people were claiming Universal Credit in Harborough in September 2023. For the latest month available (Aug 2023) 2,623 of these claimants were not in employment, whilst 2,077 were in employment. The total number of claims has increased by 7% compared to Sep 2022.

CLAIMANT COUNT

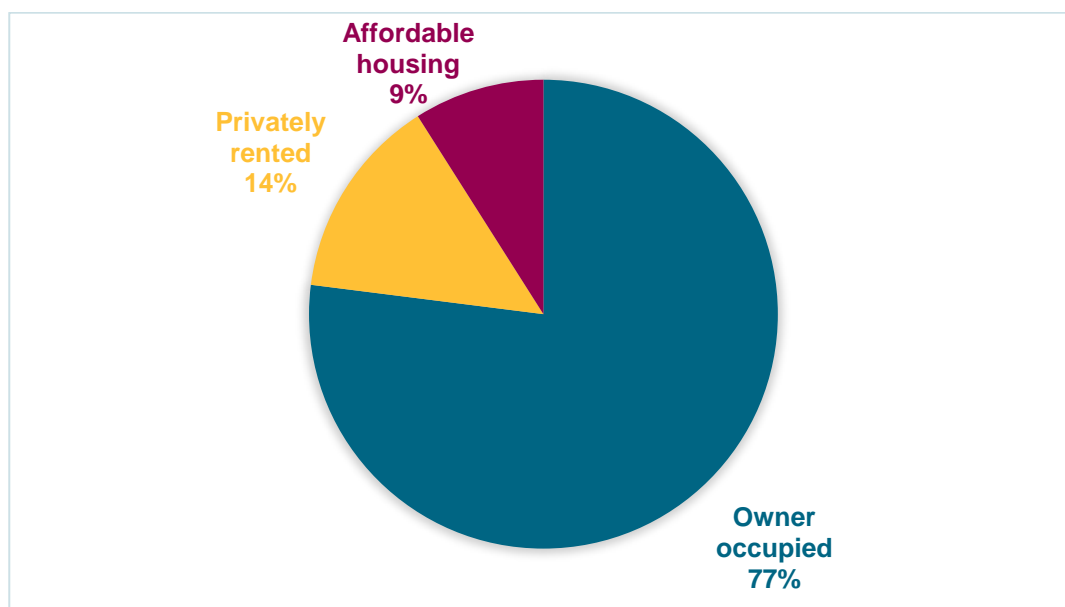
Claimant Count is an administrative measure of the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed, using individual records from the benefit system. It therefore provides a useful indication of how unemployment is changing at a local level.

The claimant count rate in Harborough in September 2023 was 1.6%, a decrease from 1.7% in September 2022. The East Midlands rate was 2.7% for September 2023 with no change from September 2022.

3 Local Housing Context

This section of the report brings together a number of metrics to provide an overview of the affordability of housing, the availability of social housing and the number of households experiencing difficulties paying for their housing.

HOUSING STOCK BY TENURE IN HARBOROUGH



SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

This table shows the total number of dwellings owned by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), the number of RSL owned dwellings as a percentage of all dwellings and the number of additional dwellings which became available during the most recent 12 month period available. The additional dwellings include new build and acquisitions.

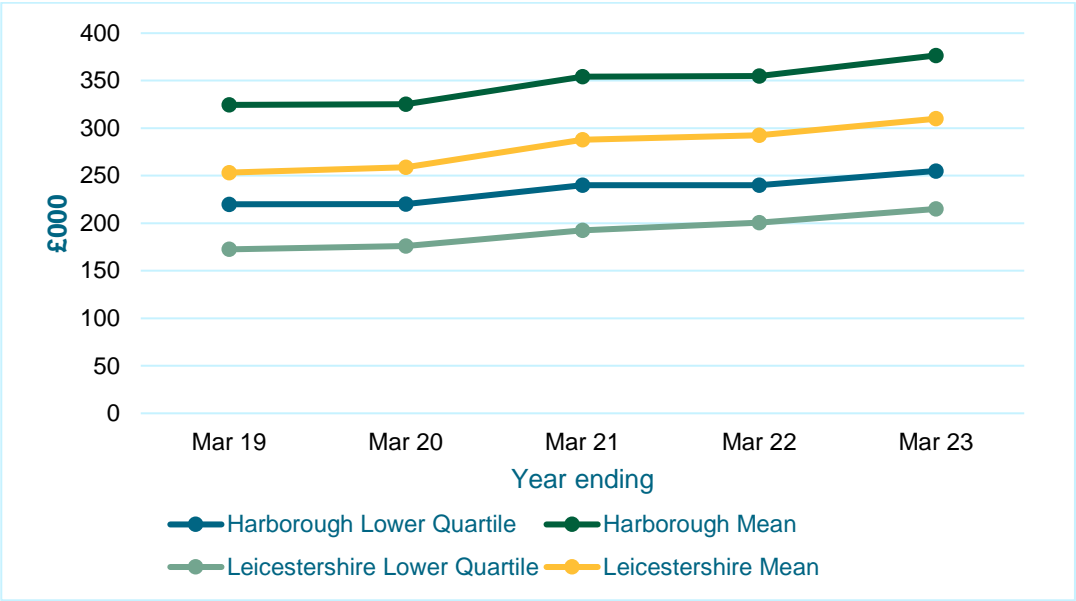
Number of dwellings and % of homes owned by Private Registered Providers (2021/22)

	No of dwellings RP owned	% of dwellings RP owned
	Dwellings	%
Harborough	3,693	8.6%

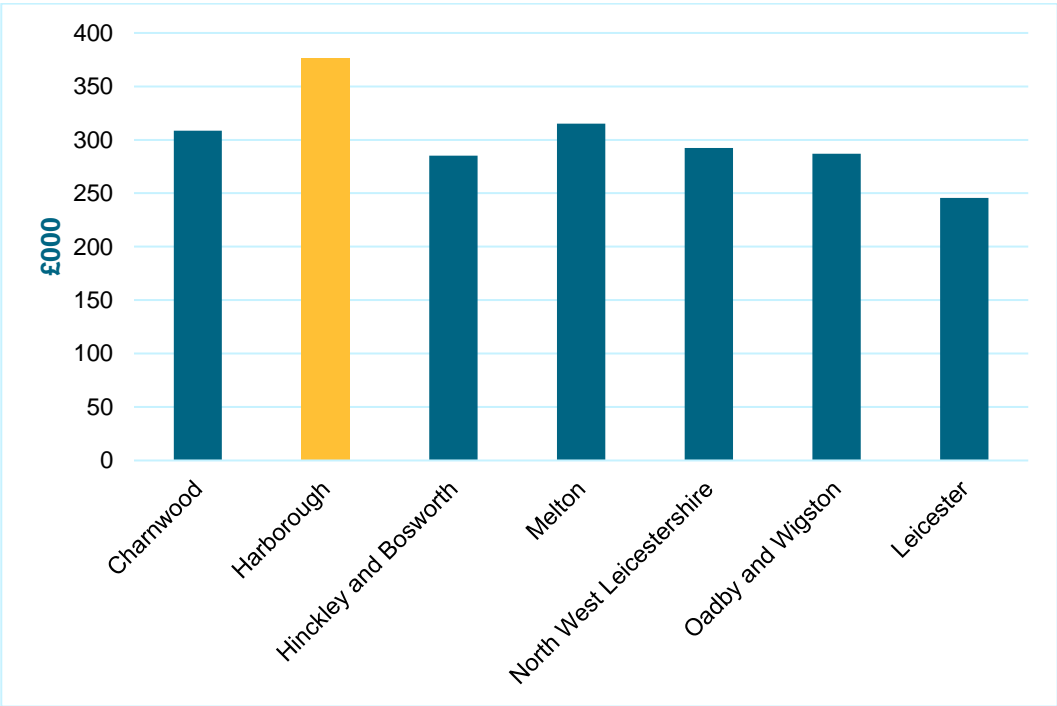
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Dwelling stock (including vacant), Data updated: 23 May 2022.

HOUSE PRICES IN HARBOROUGH

Average and lower quartile house prices



Average house prices Leicestershire councils year ending March 23



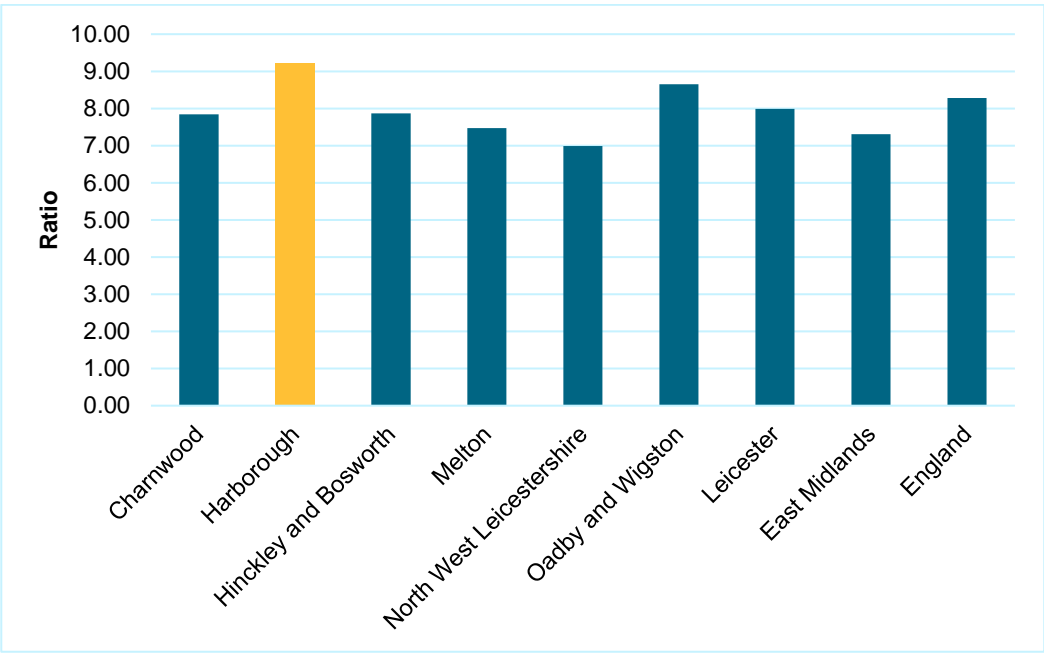
Source: Office for National Statistics
 Lower quartile house prices for administrative geographies HPSSA dataset 15
 Mean house prices for administrative geographies: HPSSA dataset 12

RATIO OF HOUSE PRICE TO GROSS ANNUAL (RESIDENCE-BASED) EARNINGS

Affordability ratios are calculated by dividing house prices by gross annual earnings, based on the median and lower quartiles of both house prices and earnings.*

This measure of affordability shows what the people who live in Harborough earn in relation to the area's house prices. A higher ratio indicates that on average, it is less affordable for a resident to purchase a house.

Median house price to Income ratio



The median housing affordability ratio for Harborough was 9.22 and the lower quartile affordability ratio was 9.52, both in 2022. which is above the East Midlands figure of 7.31 (median) and 7.15 (lower quartile).

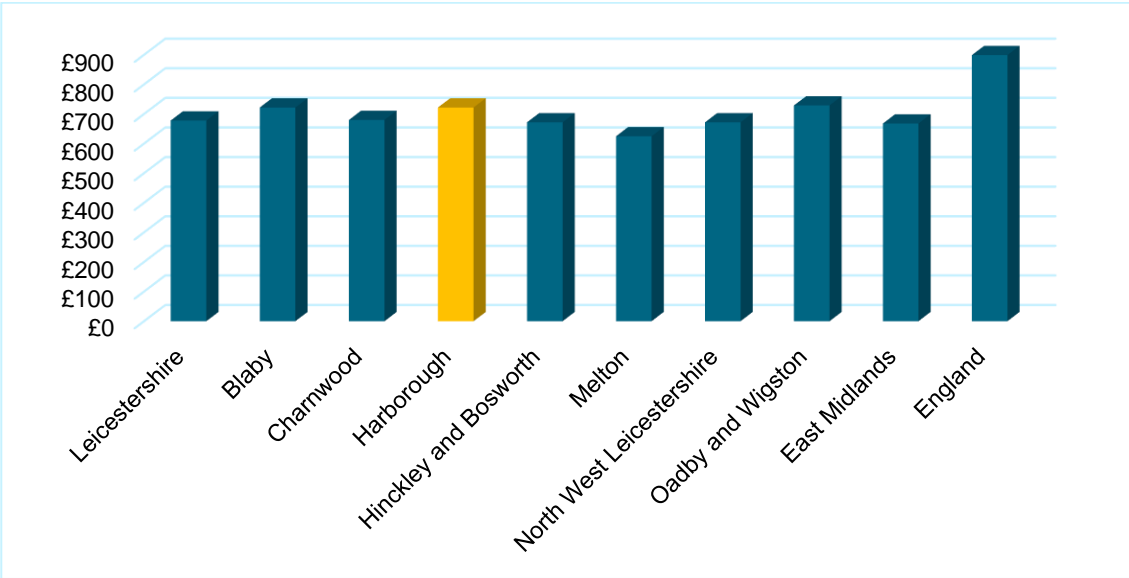
It is above the median and lower quartile housing affordability ratio for England which are 8.28 and 7.36 respectively.

*The earnings data are from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings which provides a snapshot of earnings at April in each year. Earnings relate to gross full-time individual earnings on a place of work basis. The house price statistics come from the House Price Statistics for Small Areas, which report the median and lower quartile price paid for residential property and refer to a 12 month period with April in the middle (year ending September).

Source: Office for National Statistics
Table 5c - Ratio of median house price to median gross annual residence-based earnings by local authority district, England and Wales.

PRIVATE RENTS

Average monthly private sector rent for a 2 bedroom property

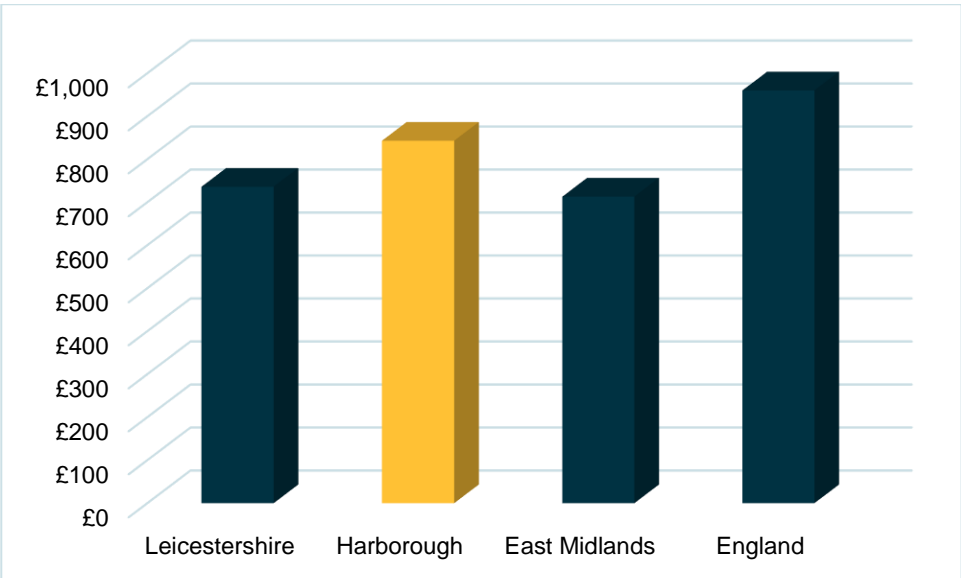


This is the average gross monthly rent paid, for a 2 bedroom property.

The average monthly private sector rent for a 2 bedroom property in Harborough was £722 in the year 2022/2023. This is higher than the average of £645 for the East Midlands.

Source: Office for National Statistics Summary of 'Two Bedrooms' monthly rents recorded between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 by administrative area for England.

Average monthly private sector rent for all properties



This is the average gross monthly rent paid for all property types.

The average monthly private sector rent for a property in Harborough was £843 in the year 2022/2023. This is higher than the average of £713 for the East Midlands.

Source: Office for National Statistics Summary of monthly rents recorded between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 by administrative area for England

AVERAGE WEEKLY REGISTERED PROVIDER RENTS

The average weekly rent for Registered Providers in Harborough, for the year 2022/23 was £92.41 compared to a figure of £90.09 for all local authority districts in the East Midlands.

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Local authority housing data, Average weekly Private Registered Provider rent

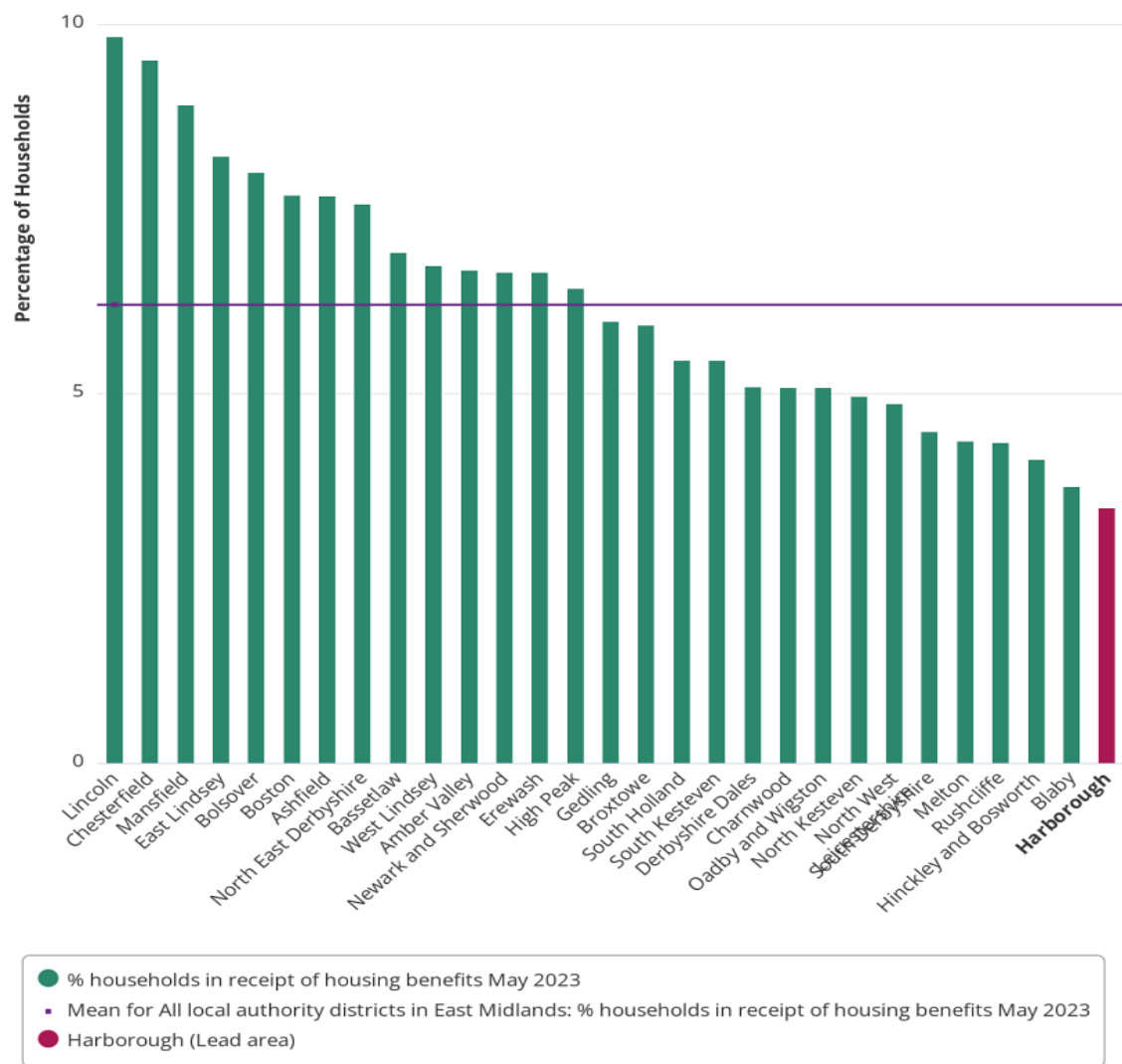
HOUSING BENEFIT RECIPIENTS

This is the proportion of all households within a local authority area that are in receipt of housing benefit. It is compiled from monthly returns of housing benefit claimants provided by each individual local authority.

Household: a single person, or a group of people living at the same address who have the address as their only or main residence and either share one main meal a day or share living accommodation (or both).

There were 1,417 housing benefit recipients in Harborough in May 2023. This was 3.45% of all households in Harborough which is lower than the average of 6.20% of all households for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

Proportion of households in receipt of housing benefits (May 2023) for All local authority districts in East Midlands



Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Stat-Xplore: Housing Benefit, Proportion of households in receipt of housing benefits , Data updated: 15 Aug 2023

MORTGAGE AND LANDLORD POSSESSION CLAIMS

A mortgage or landlord possession action starts when a mortgage lender or landlord completes and submits a claim to the courts to repossess a property. The most common reason for repossession is arrears of mortgage or rent. A claim is therefore a good indication of the extent to which families are struggling to keep up with their household costs and their potential exposure to losing their home.

During 2022/23, there were 66 landlord possession claims in Harborough, equating to 4.1 per 10,000 households. Additionally, there were 16 mortgage possession claims, representing 1.0 per 10,000 households.

Possession claims issued in Harborough

Period	No. of landlord possession claims		No. of landlord possession claims per 10,000 households		No. of mortgage possession claims		No. of mortgage possession claims per 10,000 households	
	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	Claims		Per 10,000 households		Claims		Per 10,000 households	
April 2022 to March 2023	66	90	4.1	4.8	16	23	1.0	1.2

Source: Ministry of Justice, Mortgage and Landlord Possession Statistics, Data updated: 04 September 2023

HOUSING NEED

The Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment 2022 (HENA) provides the following assessment of housing need for the period 2020 to 2041:

Housing Need	Per annum
Minimum local housing need all tenures (<i>table 13.1 - Standard Method Calculations</i>)	534
Estimated need for social/affordable rented housing (<i>table 9.9</i>)	254
Estimated need for affordable home ownership (<i>table 9.15</i>)	185
Total affordable housing need (rent and ownership)	439

Specialist Housing Need

		Current shortfall/surplus	Additional demand to 2041	Shortfall by 2041
Housing with support	market	339	554	893
	affordable	-164	291	127
Total housing with support		175	845	1020
Housing with care	market	202	226	428
	affordable	41	78	119
Total housing with care		243	304	547
Total all		418	1149	1567

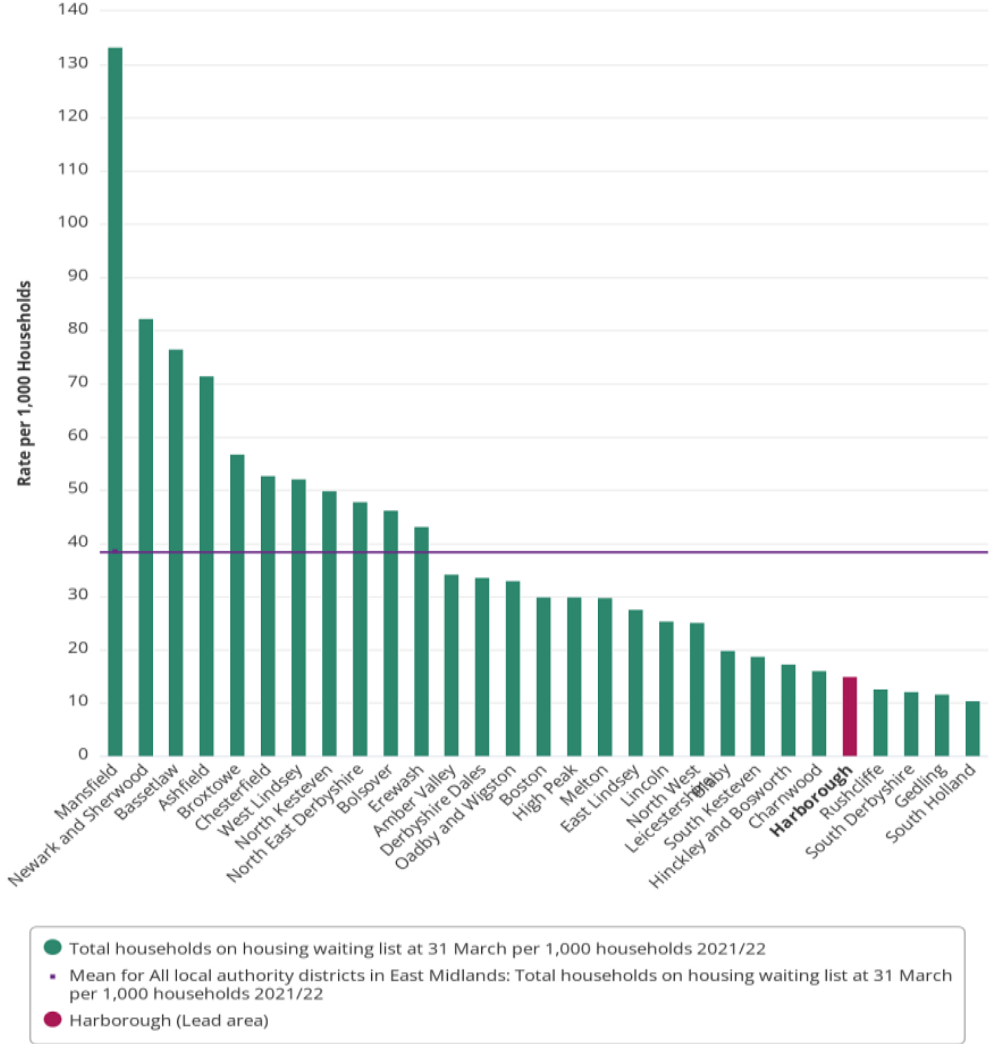
Source: Hena table 11.17

Households on the housing waiting list

This is the total households on the housing waiting list at 31st March per 1,000 households. Local authorities are expected to keep a waiting list of housing applicants in order to deliver their statutory allocation functions. The housing waiting list should include both households in housing need and those not in housing need. However, this should exclude existing local authority tenants seeking a transfer within the authority's own stock.

There were a total of 596 households on the housing waiting list, equating to 14.9 households (per 1000 households) in Harborough at 31 March for the year 2021/22. The average for All local authority districts in East Midlands was 1,813, equating to 38.4 per 1,000 households.

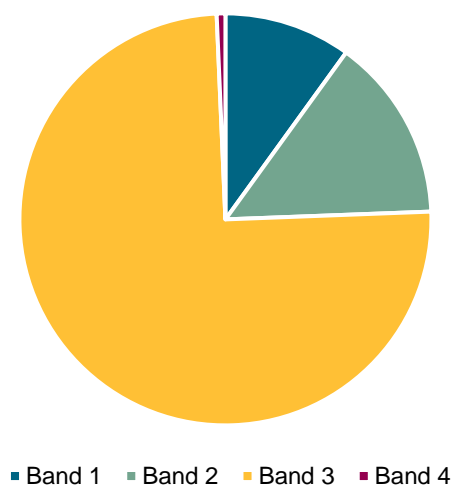
Total households on the housing waiting list at 31st March per 1,000 households (2021/22) for All local authority districts in East Midlands



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Local Authority Housing Statistics (LAHS), Total households on the housing waiting list at 31st March per 1,000 households , Data updated: 28 Jun 2023

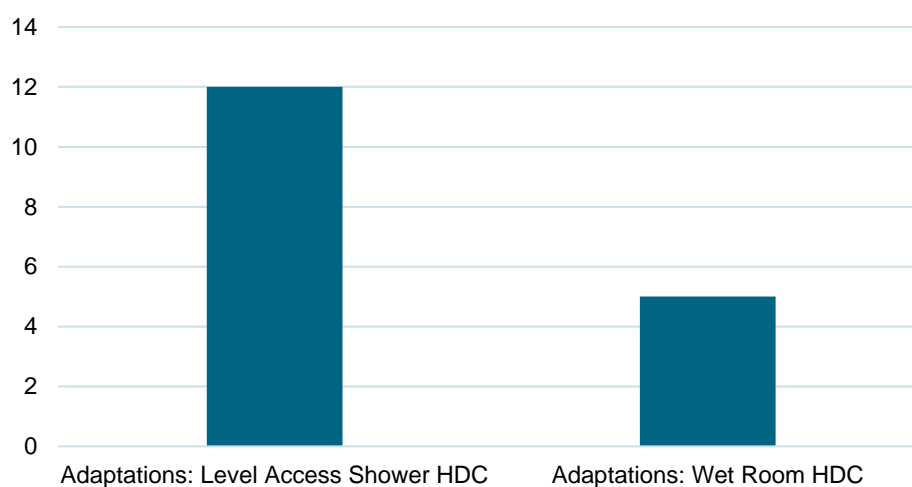
Further analysis of the housing register as at October 2023 demonstrates that the majority of applicants with live applications are in Band 3 with roughly three times the number in all three other bands combined.

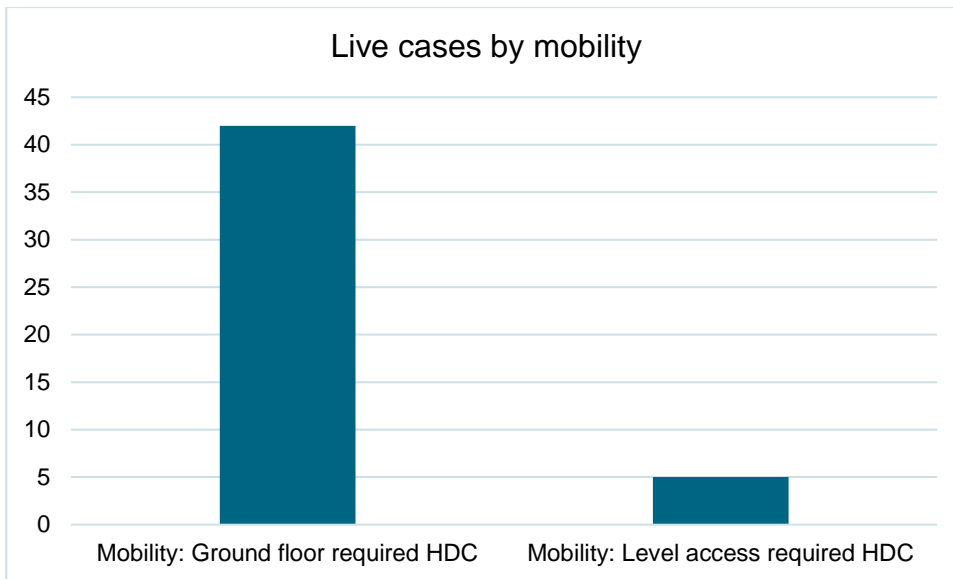
Proportion of live cases in each band



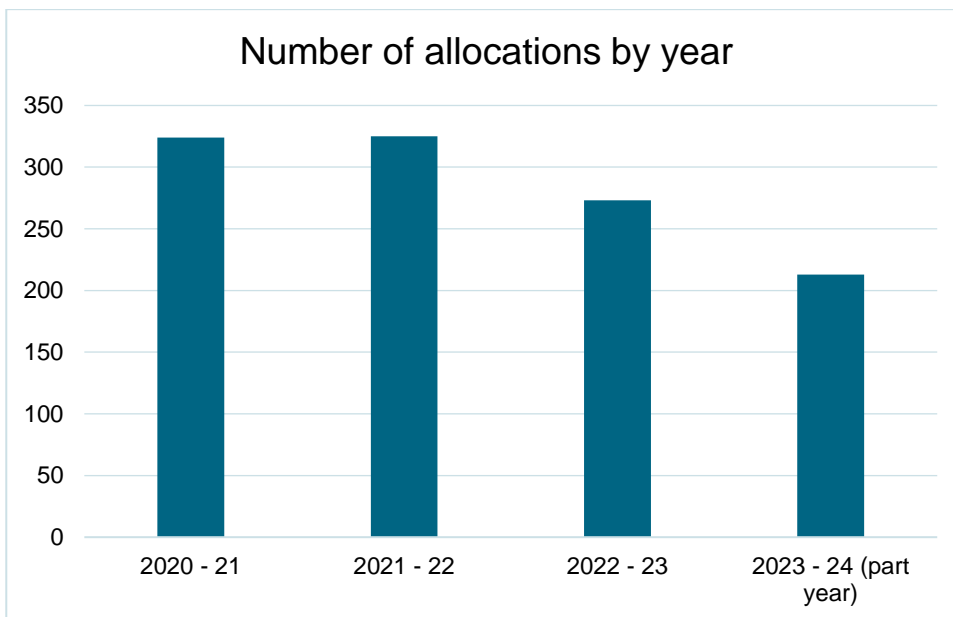
Analysis of applicants specific needs in relation to accessibility shows that a small but not insignificant number require accessible bathroom facilities or ground floor accommodation.

Live cases by adaptations

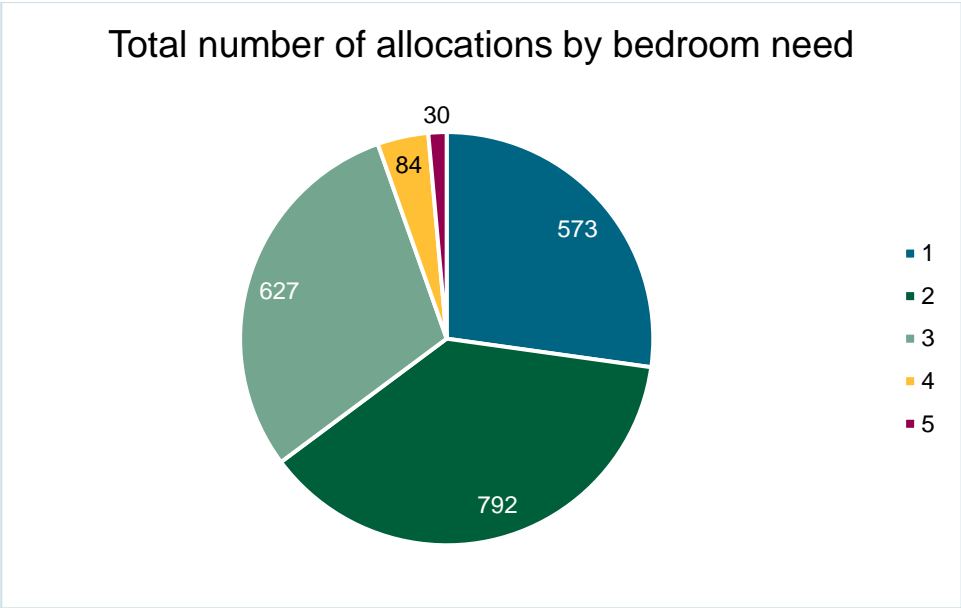




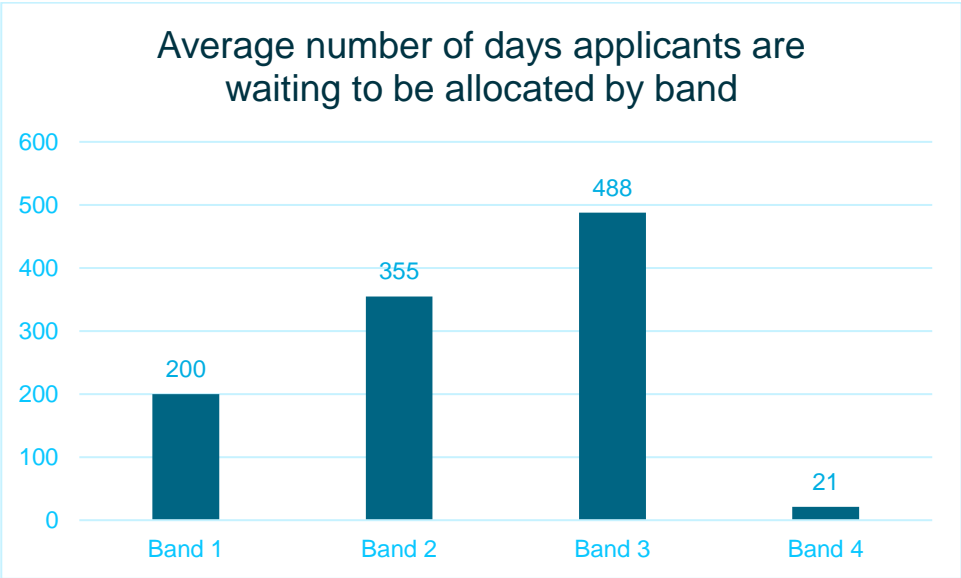
Considering allocations of social rented homes through the housing register in each year, the number has been artificially high in recent years due to the good delivery of new affordable housing. The number in the graph below for 2023 - 24 relates to a part year (January to December) so is not comparable with the other years.



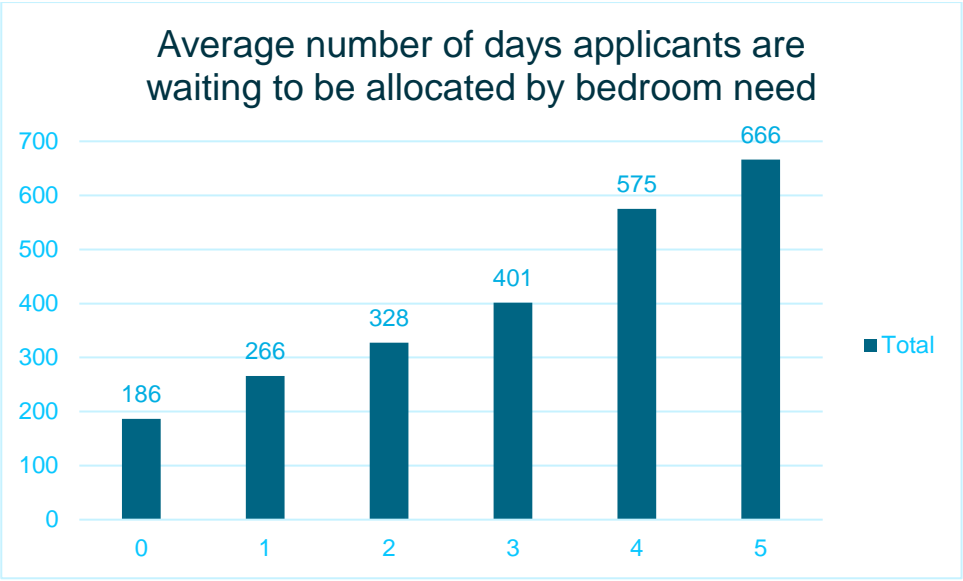
The table below shows the number of allocations made by number of bedrooms in each property let over the entire period from 2020. This shows that the majority of lettings are to one, two and three bedroom properties.



The average time between a valid application and allocation by band during the period 2019-2023 is shown in the table below. This shows that households in Band 3 wait the longest on average, followed by those in Band 2. As the Harborough Homes policy intends, those in Band 1, having the most urgent need for housing, have a shorter wait, although this is still 200 days on average.



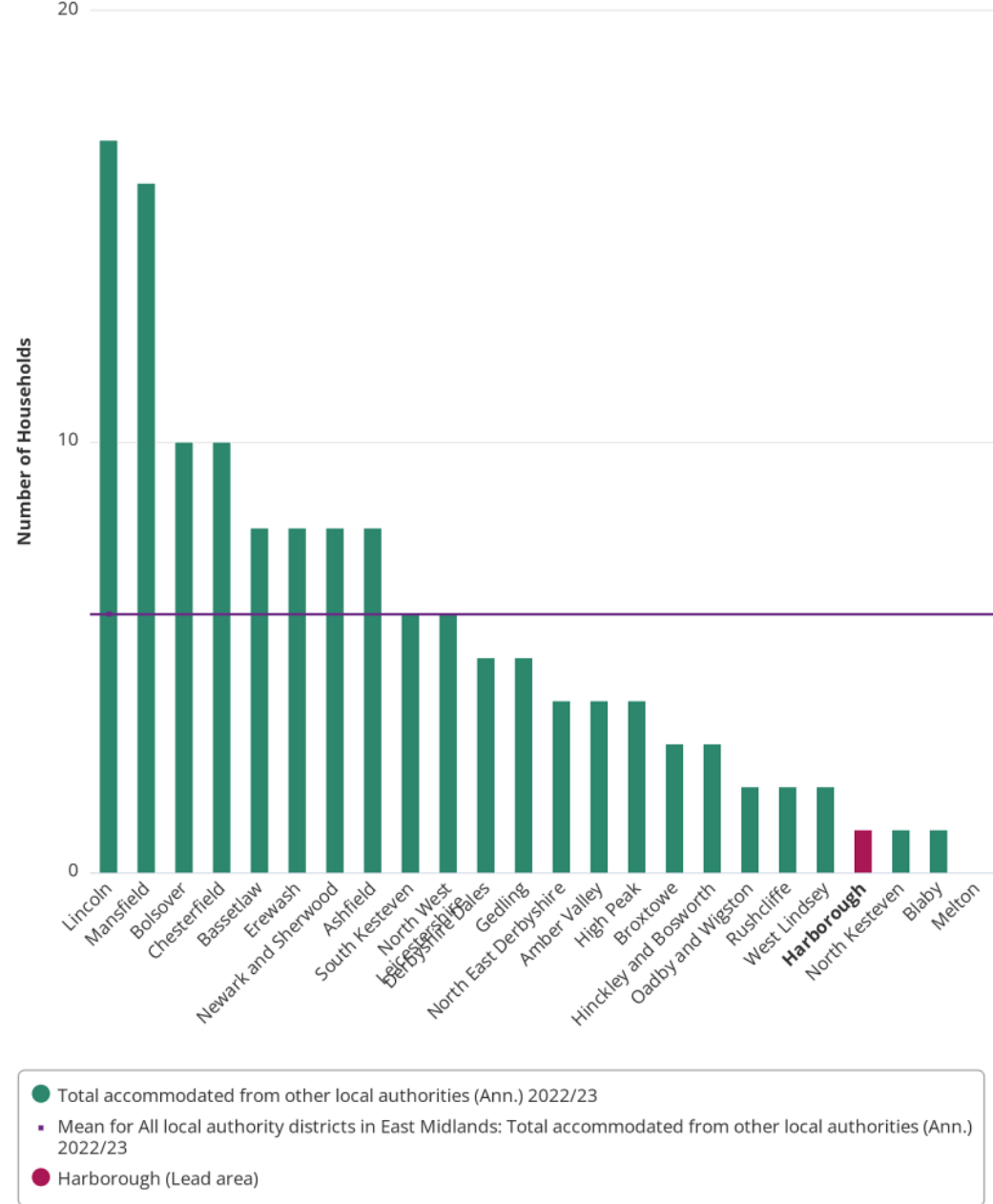
The table below shows the average time between a valid application and allocation by bedroom need (NB zero bedrooms relates to bedsit properties). This shows that households having a need for larger homes must wait longer to be allocated a suitable home.



HOUSEHOLDS ACCOMMODATED FROM OTHER LA AREAS

This is the number of households accommodated within the local authority area who have been accepted from another local authority area where they were owed a prevention, relief or main duty to secure accommodation. A total of 1 households from other local authorities were accommodated in Harborough in 2022/23, this is lower than the average of 6 for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

Total accommodated from other local authorities (Annual) (2022/23) for All local authority districts in East Midlands



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Statutory homelessness live tables - Annual, Total accommodated from other local authorities (Annual), Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community

At March 2016 there were 82 residential pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers across Harborough District. In addition, there were 98 plots occupied by Travelling Show people households. The Gypsy and Traveller sites included well established sites at Greenacres, north of Market Harborough, and Mere Farm, Ullesthorpe, together with a publicly-owned site at Boneham's Lane, Gilmorton. Existing Travelling Show people provision was largely concentrated south of Lutterworth.

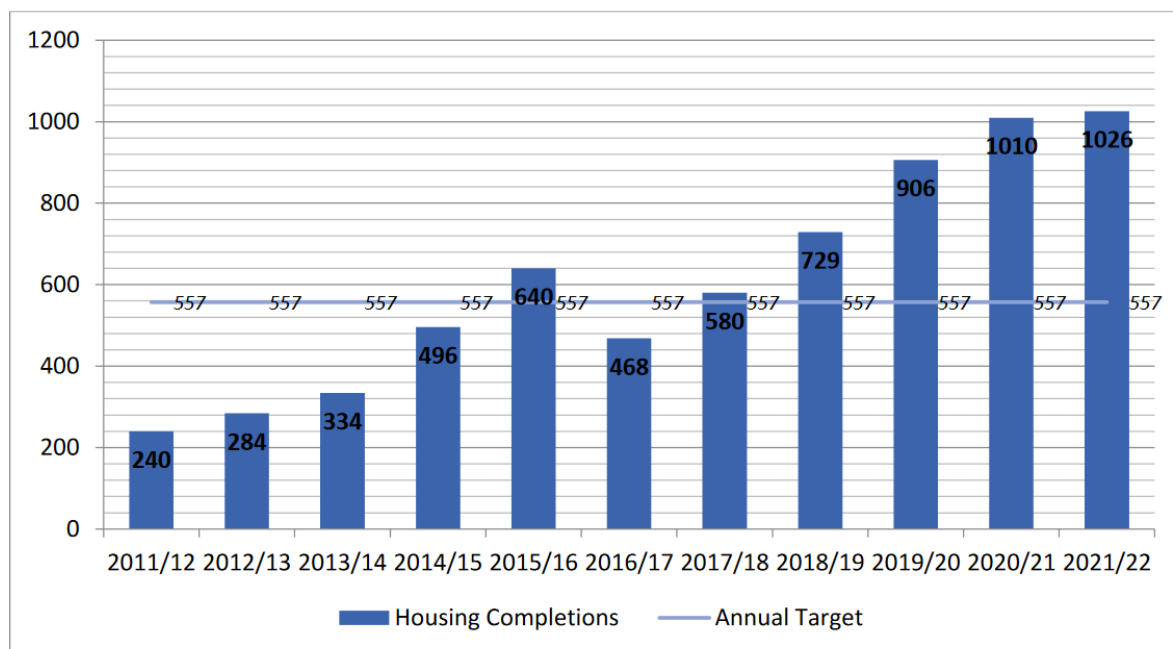
The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), 2017 identified a need for 5 additional pitches, and 26 further show people plots.

	April 2016 - March 2021	April 2021 - March 2026	April 2026 - March 2031	Total
Gypsy and Traveller pitches	3	1	1	5
Travelling Showpeople plots	19	3	4	26

Source: Harborough Local Plan 2011 – 2031 Policy H6

A new GTAA is currently in progress.

HOUSING SUPPLY



Annual new housing completions since 2011 (shown as bars) and the minimum annual housing requirement of 557 dwellings per annum (shown as a line) as set out in the adopted Local Plan.

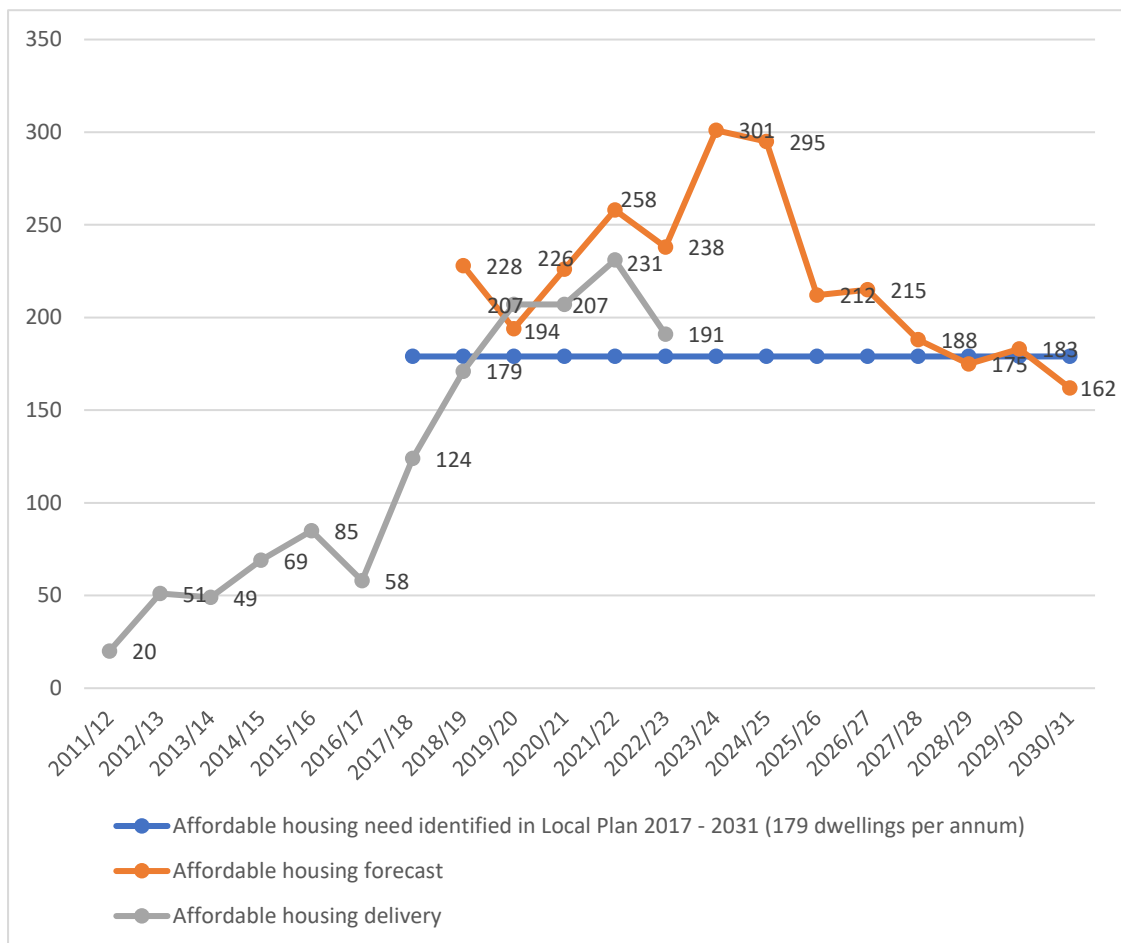
The adopted annual housing requirement is 557 dwellings per year from 01 April 2011 to 31 March 2031. The government adds to this any shortfall of past delivery from 01 April 2011 and a 5% buffer to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. This equates to an annual housing requirement of 585 dwellings per annum for Harborough, between 2022/23 and 2026/27.

The district's housing delivery from the start of the plan period (April 2011) to March 2022 has exceeded the required 557 dwellings per annum. A total of 586 dwellings over the required provision between 2011 and 2022.

Source: Harborough District Authority Monitoring Report 2021/22 - 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

AFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY

Annual affordable supply 2011-31



Affordable housing need identified in Local Plan 2017 – 31 is 179 dwellings per annum. The actual delivery in the next few years is forecast to fall below the requirements of the Local Plan.

4 Local Homelessness overview

This section provides an overview of the current levels of vulnerability and homelessness within Harborough.

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SEEKING HELP FOR HOMELESSNESS

The data we are required to provide to the Government does not include the number of people seeking information and advice about homelessness or potential homelessness and where they do not proceed to an initial assessment. The total number of approaches each year are shown in the table below, demonstrating that this has more than doubled since 2019/20.

Year	Homelessness enquiries
2019/20	306
2020/21	579
2021/22	560
2022/23	640

The table below shows a number of indicators relating to households seeking help for homelessness, including the total number of initial assessments completed, the number of households identified as being owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty and those assessed as being homeless or threatened with homelessness. This provides a useful indication of levels of resident vulnerability.

In 2022/23 Q4, a total of 77 households in Harborough were identified as being owed a prevention or relief duty, of which 55 households were assessed as homeless and 21 as threatened with homelessness.

In line with national and regional trends the number of households assessed as homeless and owed a prevention or relief duty (initial assessments) in Harborough has increased by 37.5% over the past two years. The number threatened with homelessness has not changed significantly across the same period, in contrast with the average for other districts across the East Midlands which shows a marked increase.

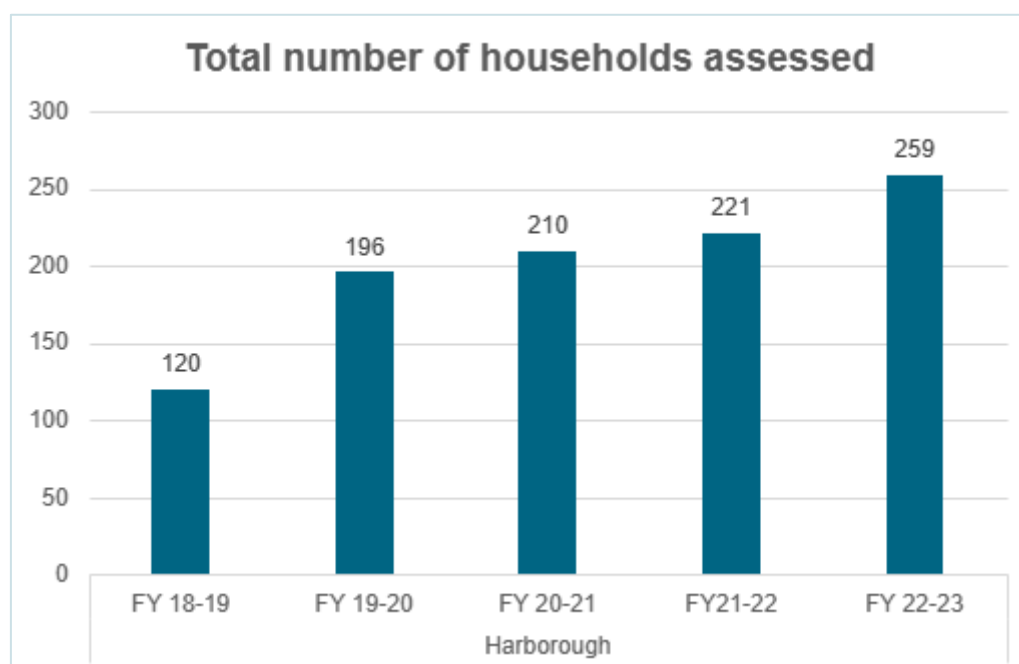
Households assessed and owed a duty (quarterly data) for Harborough

Period	Total households assessed and owed a duty - initial assessments		Total households assessed and owed a duty - due to Homelessness		Total households assessed and owed a duty - as threatened with homelessness	
	Households					
	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands
2021/22 Q1	56	83	31	45	25	36
2021/22 Q2	64	92	45	45	19	45
2021/22 Q3	56	92	31	45	25	46
2021/22 Q4	45	110	26	49	19	60
2022/23 Q1	54	106	39	54	15	51
2022/23 Q2	55	107	35	52	20	54
2022/23 Q3	73	91	53	47	19	42
2022/23 Q4	77	116	55	60	21	54

Source:

Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

Taking a longer term view, the number of households assessed has risen steadily over the past five years as shown in the table below:



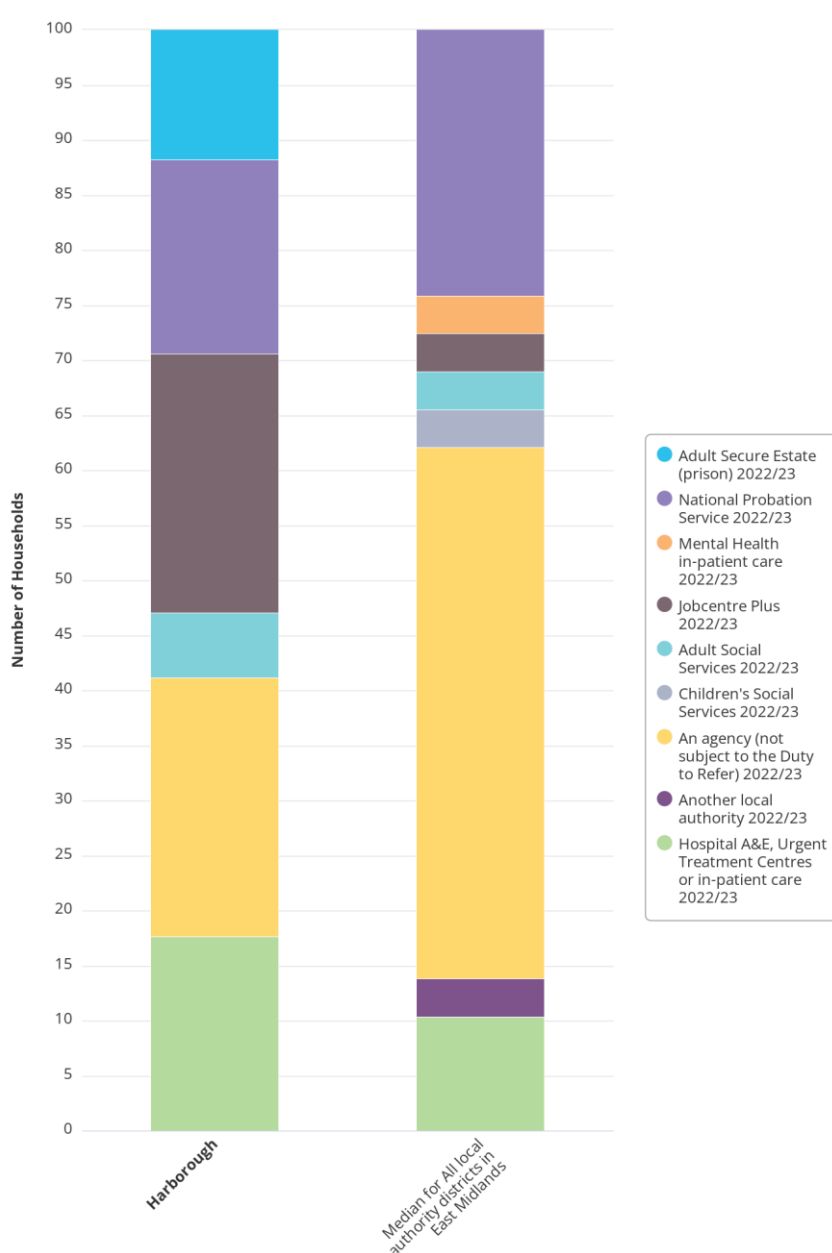
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

HOUSEHOLDS ASSESSED AS A RESULT OF A REFERRAL BODY

This chart shows the proportion referrals, by referring body, of households assessed as a result of a referral, including under the Duty to Refer, in Harborough alongside the median figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

The highest proportion of referrals in Harborough were from Jobcentre Plus in 2022/23, which contrasts wildly from the picture across the East Midlands. This is unsurprising considering that the Jobcentre Plus is based within the Council offices. Notable differences also exist between Harborough and the other districts in relation to referrals from secure estate (prison) and hospital.

Households assessed as a result of a referral by referring body



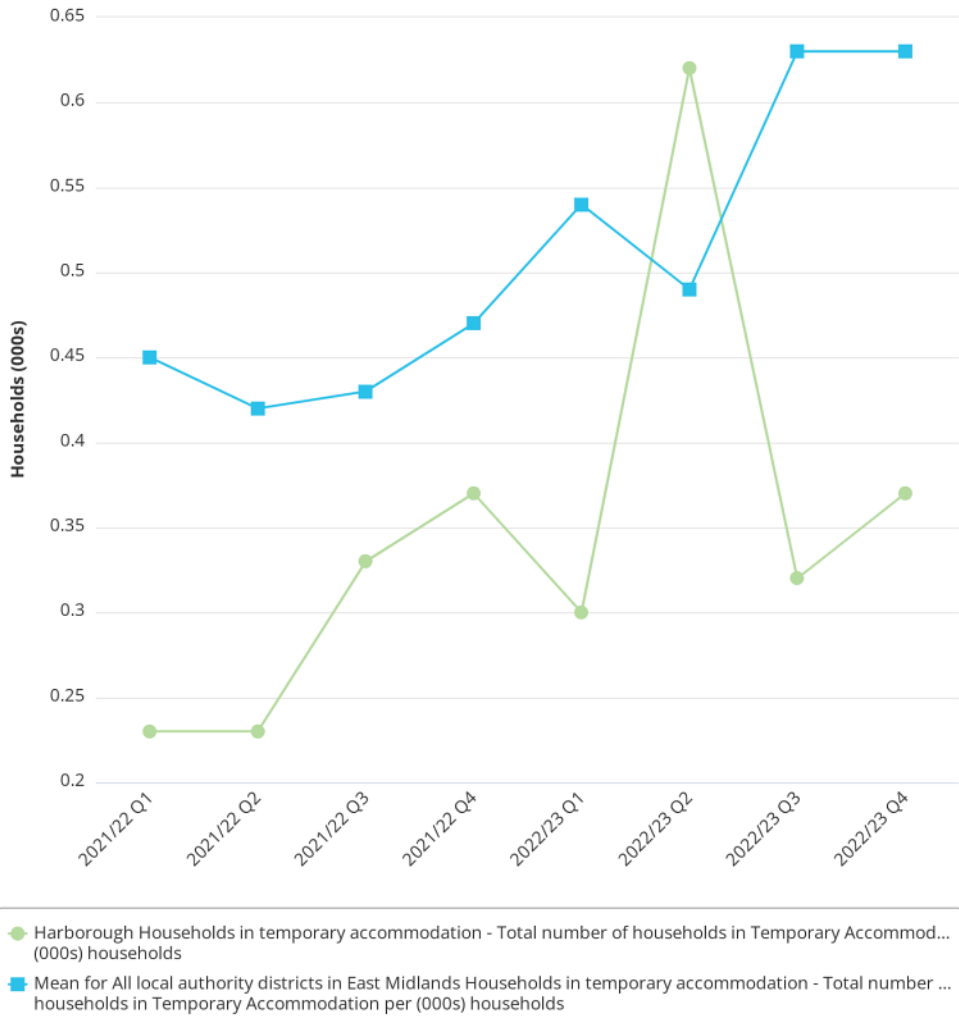
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Households in temporary accommodations refers to households living in accommodation secured by a Local Housing Authority under their statutory homelessness functions. The majority of households in temporary accommodation have been placed under the main homelessness duty to secure suitable accommodation until the duty ends. This data therefore provides a useful indication of levels of potential resident vulnerability within Harborough.

In 2022/23 Q4, there were a total of 15 households in temporary accommodation in Harborough. This equates to a rate of 0.37 households per 1,000 households, which is lower than the All local authority districts in East Midlands rate of 0.63. The number at the end of October 2023 is roughly the same, although this was reduced from 20 as a result of recent allocations to new affordable homes.

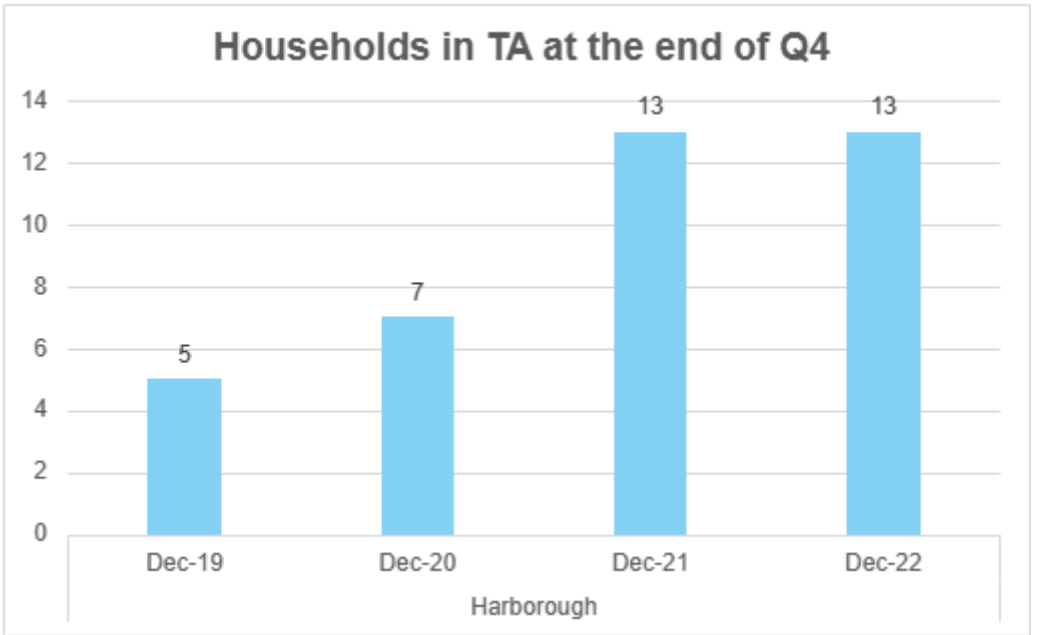
Total number of households in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households for Harborough



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Statutory homelessness live tables, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

Looking over the past four years, the number of households in TA at the end of Quarter 4 in each year has more than doubled. This is a worrying trend,

particularly as the number of social lettings are likely to decline as the new development pipeline reduces.



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Statutory homelessness live tables, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

This table shows the proportion of households in temporary accommodation in Harborhorough by the composition of those households, alongside the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands. Please note that the totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

In the latest reporting period (2022/23 Q4) most households in temporary accommodation in Harborhorough comprised of a Single adult - Female or Single female parent with dependent children. This is in line with the mean and median picture across the East Midlands districts.

Percentage of households in temporary accommodation by composition of household

Metric type	Value type	2022/23 Q4			
		Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
Couple with dependent children	%	13	13	12	36
Single male parent with dependent children	%	0	4	3	22
Single female parent with dependent children	%	33	29	30	54
Single parent with dependent children - Other / gender not known	%	0	0	0	0
Single male adult	%	7	30	33	67
Single female adult	%	33	16	14	33
Single adult - Other / gender not known	%	0	0	0	7
All other household types	%	13	8	7	22

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

SNAPSHOT OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SLEEPING ROUGH

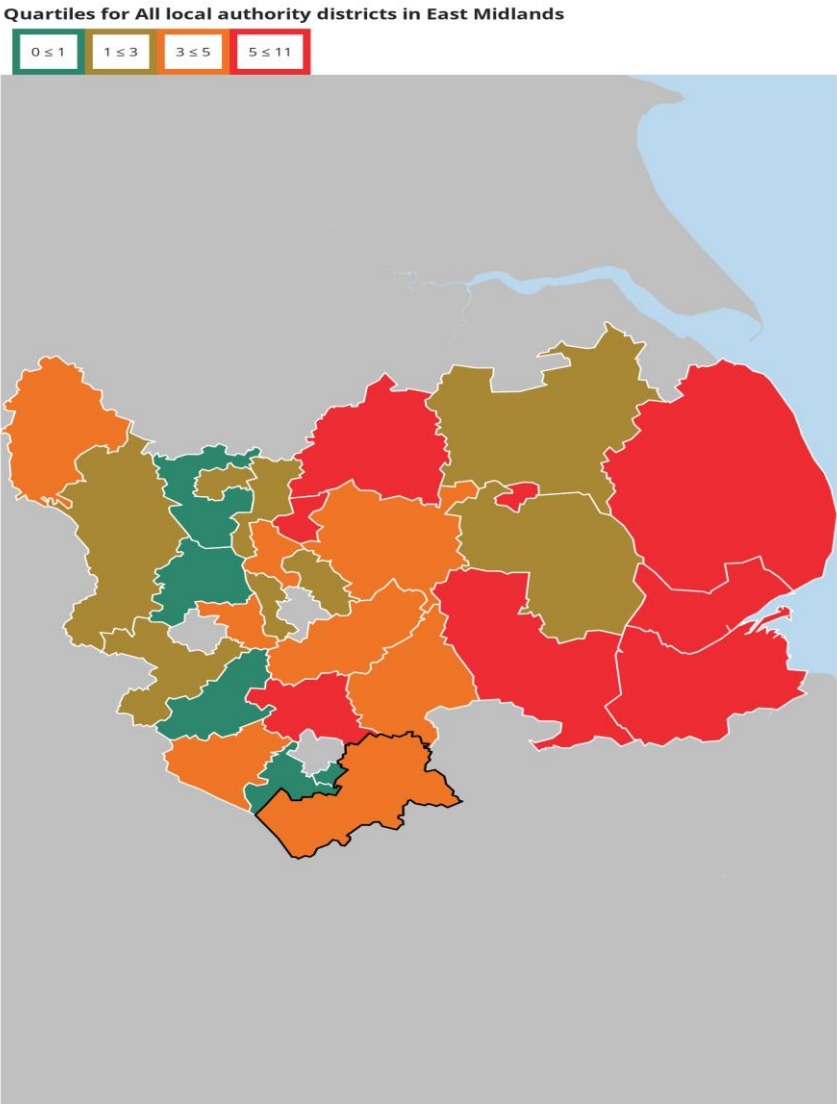
People sleeping rough are defined as those sleeping or about to bed down in open air locations and other places including tents and make shift shelters. The snapshot does not include people in hostels or shelters, sofa surfers or those in recreational or organised protest, squatter or traveller campsites. The snapshot records only those people seen, or thought to be, sleeping rough on a single night. The snapshot does not include everyone in an area with a history of sleeping rough, or everyone sleeping rough in areas across the October to November period.

The annual rough sleeping snapshot can take place on a single date chosen by the local authority between 1st October and 30th November. The snapshot takes place in the autumn, rather than Summer where numbers are likely to be higher due to warmer temperatures, or Winter, where numbers may be lower as there are more temporary night shelters set up to ensure people do not sleep on the streets in very cold weather.

The Snapshot: Autumn 2022 annual rough sleeping snapshot found a total of 3 people sleeping rough in Harborough, this being a consistent finding and is the same as the average of 3 for All local authority districts in East Midlands. The number of rough sleepers identified in larger urban centres, like Leicester, tends to be higher due to the presence of specialist and CVS

support agencies working in the larger towns and cities. However, when SWEP was activated during the Autumn of 2023 a total of 9 people sought shelter, suggesting that the number of rough sleepers is higher than the number identified during the annual count. This number was higher than in previous years and might be attributed to the new local support hub provided by Falcon.

Total number of people sleeping rough (Snapshot: Autumn 2022) for All local authority districts in East Midlands



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot in England: Autumn, Data updated: 01 Mar 2023

5 Characteristics of Main Applicants Owed a Homelessness Duty

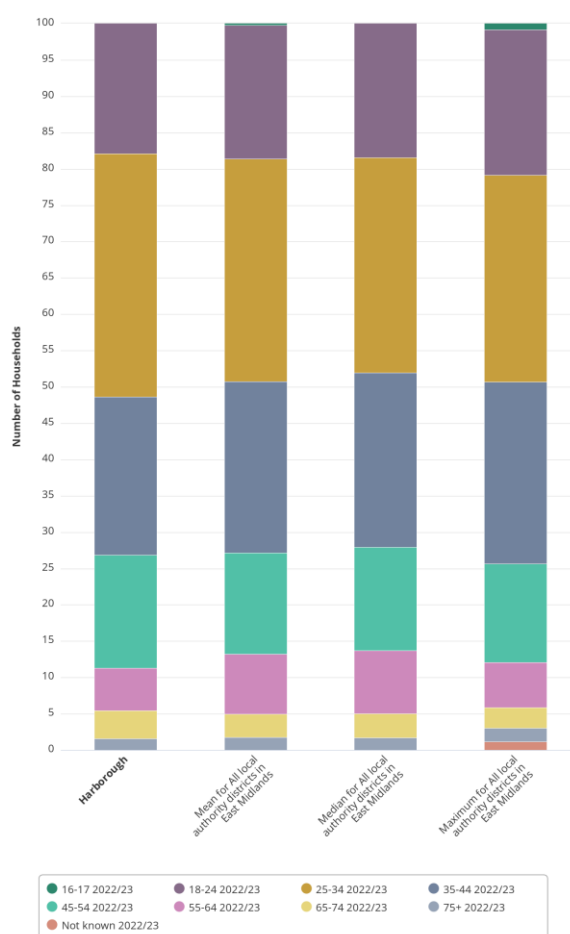
This section presents an overview of the personal characteristics of the main applicants within each household that has been assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty in Harborough during the financial year 2022/23.

AGE OF MAIN APPLICANTS OWED A PREVENTION OR RELIEF DUTY

This chart shows the proportion of main applicants from each household assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty by their age groups for Harborough alongside the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

The age group with the highest number of main applicants in Harborough in 2022/23 was 25-34. Notably there were no 16/17 year olds assessed as owed a duty in Harborough. The proportion of applicants in each age range was broadly similar to the picture across the East Midlands.

Age of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty



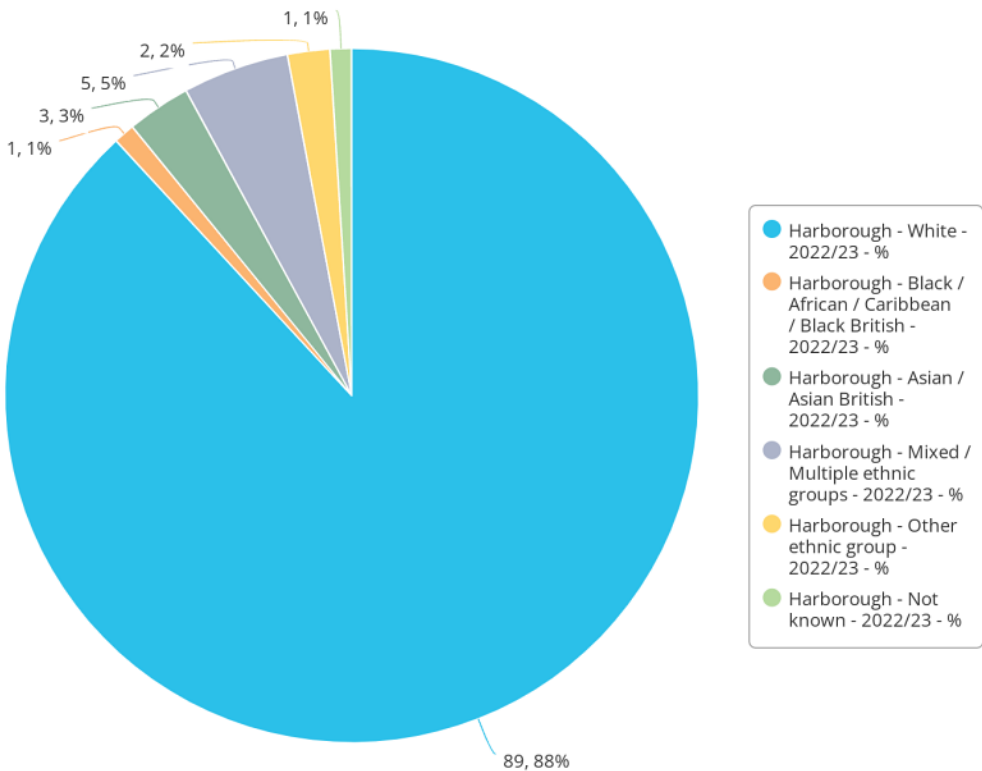
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Statutory homelessness live tables - Annual, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

ETHNIC GROUP OF MAIN APPLICANT

This chart shows the proportion of main applicants from each household assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty by their ethnic group.

In 2022/23 89% of main applicants in Harborough were from a White ethnic background. This is roughly in line with the proportion of the general population identifying as White British, at 91%.

Ethnicity of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty (%)



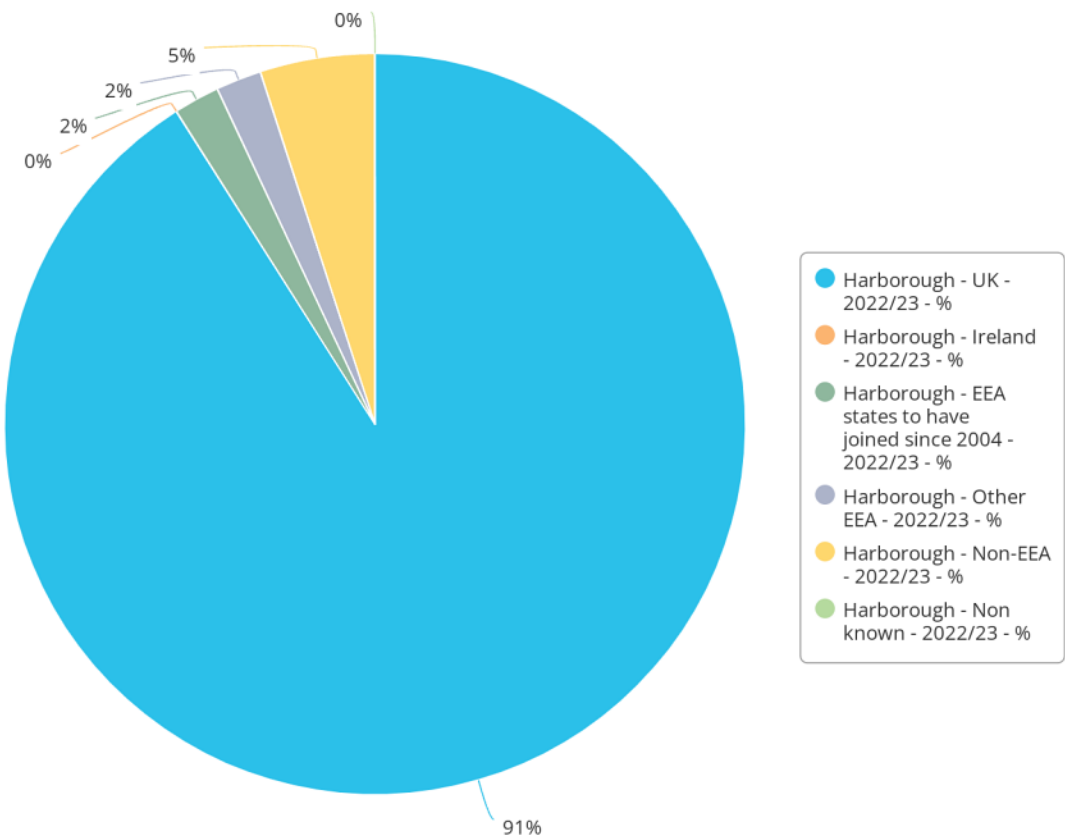
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Statutory homelessness live tables - Annual, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

NATIONALITY OF MAIN APPLICANT

This chart shows the proportion of main applicants from each household assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty by their nationality groupings.

In 2022/23 the highest represented nationality among main applicants in Harborough was UK.

Nationality of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty (%)



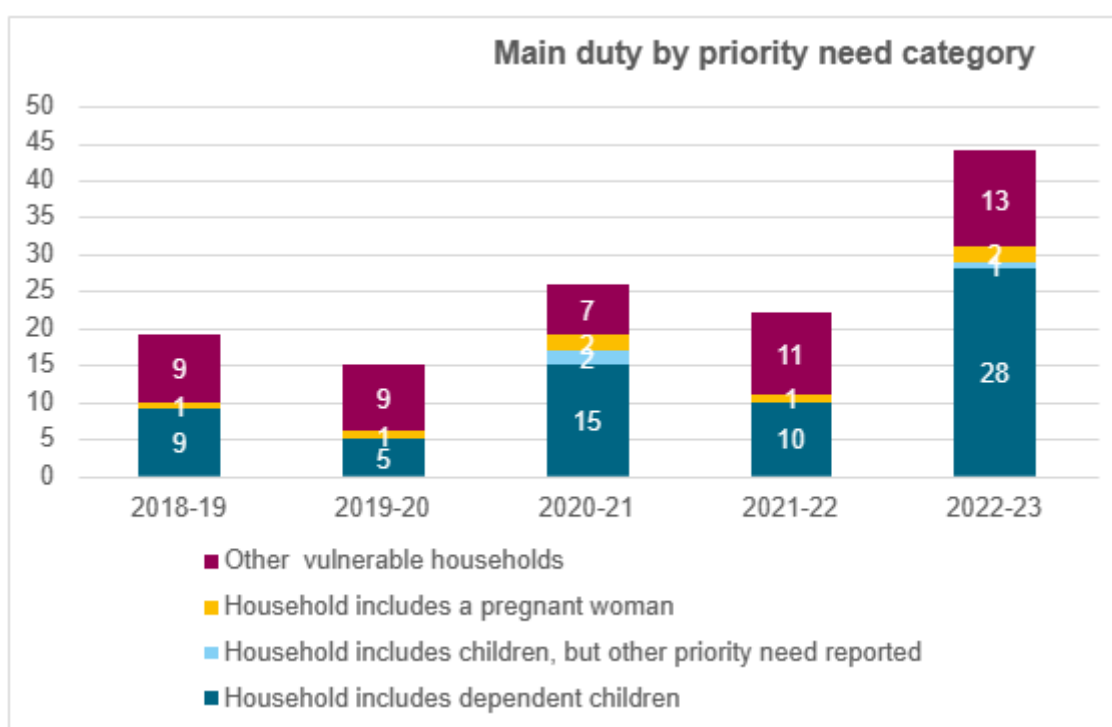
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

PRIORITY NEED CATEGORY OF HOUSEHOLDS OWED A MAIN DUTY

Households that are threatened with homelessness within 56 days are owed help from the local authority to prevent homelessness and the authority must work to relieve homelessness for those who are actually homeless. Main homelessness duty describes the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need. This definition has not been changed by the 2017 HRA. However, these households are now only owed a main duty if their homelessness has not been successfully prevented or relieved.

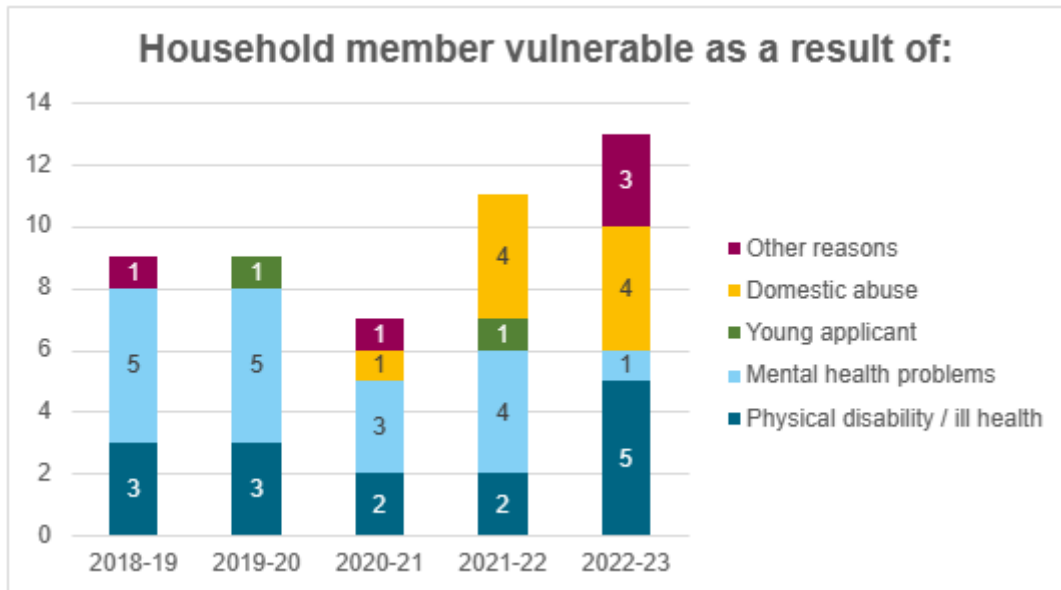
During 2022/23 Q4, of the 77 households assessed and owed a duty, 17 households were accepted as priority need and owed a main duty in Harborough, and 4 were identified as vulnerable households.

Looking back over the past five years, as shown in the table below, the priority need category for most households owed a main duty was 'household includes dependent children'. In 2022/23 this category was over double the next most common, 'household member vulnerable'.



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

The reasons for vulnerability for households owed a main duty as a result of a member being vulnerable are shown in the table below, with the trend over the past five years. Domestic abuse has been the main reason in respect of 9 households in the last three years, not having been recorded as the reason for any household prior to this. Physical disability or ill health has also seen a rise in numbers in recent years.



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

6 Service Users' Journeys for Households Owed a Prevention Duty

Households that are threatened with homelessness within 56 days are owed help from the local authority to prevent homelessness. Prevention duties include any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness from becoming homeless. This would involve activities to enable an applicant to remain in their current home or find alternative accommodation in order to prevent them from becoming homeless. The duty lasts for 56 days, but may be extended if the local authority is continuing with efforts to prevent homelessness.

REASON FOR LOSS OF LAST SETTLED HOME FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A PREVENTION DUTY

This table shows the reasons why applicants assessed as owed a prevention duty were threatened with homelessness in Harborough along with the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

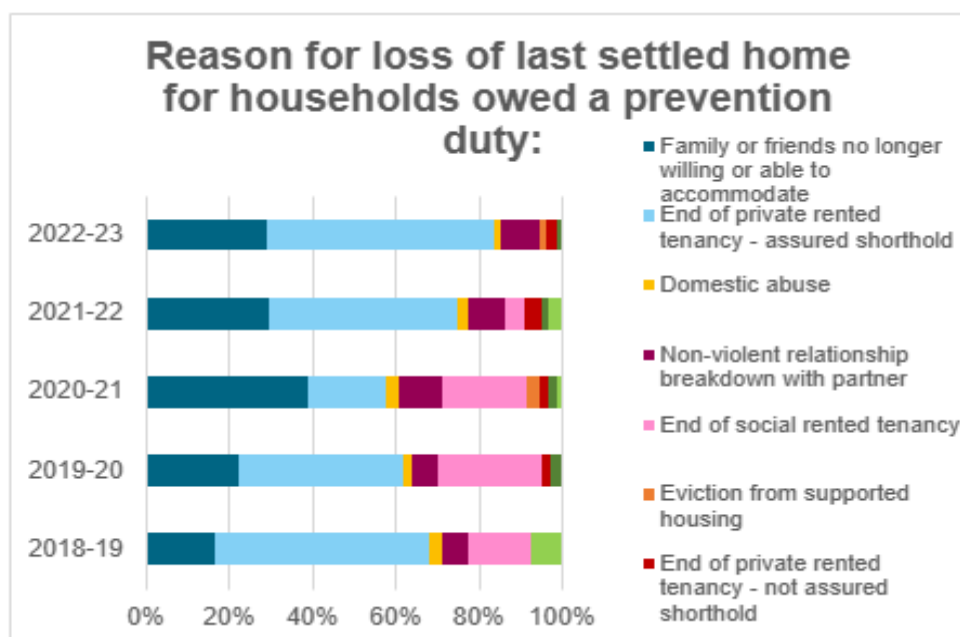
The most common reason for loss of last settled home for households owed a prevention duty in Harborough in 2022/23 was End of private rented tenancy - assured shorthold. This is in line with the other districts across the East Midlands, and similar proportions are seen for all other reasons except 'domestic abuse', this being rare in Harborough in 2022/3 as people fleeing domestic abuse generally progress to a relief duty.

Reason for loss of last settled home for households owed a prevention duty

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
End of assured shorthold (AST) private rented tenancy	41	89	96	138
End of non-AST private rented tenancy	2	6	4	21
Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate	22	45	39	118
Non-violent relationship breakdown with partner	7	13	10	32
Domestic abuse	1	14	13	46
Other violence or harassment	0	2	2	8
End of social rented tenancy	0	11	4	78
Eviction from supported housing	1	6	4	36
Left institution with no accommodation available	1	3	1	41
Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support	0	0	0	5
Total owed a prevention duty	75	200	190	349

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

Looking at the proportion of households losing their last settled home for each of the recorded reasons over the past five years (see table below), the end of a private rented tenancy and family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate are the most common reasons. The lower proportion of households required to leave a private rented tenancy during 2020/21 would have as a result of the rules imposed under the Covid-19 pandemic. However, surprisingly the proportion of households required to leave a social rented tenancy during that year remained significant – this has now reduced.



REASON FOR END OF ASSURED SHORTHOLD (AST) PRIVATE RENTED TENANCY FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A PREVENTION DUTY

This table provides a breakdown of the reasons for the end of assured shorthold (AST) private rented tenancy for applicants assessed as owed a prevention duty in Harborough as well as the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

The most common reasons for the end of assured shorthold (AST) private rented tenancy in Harborough in 2022/23 were Landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property followed by Other reasons / not known. This is in line with the other districts across the region and represents an increasing trend nationally.

Reason for end of assured shorthold (AST) private rented tenancy for households owed a prevention duty

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
Rent arrears, Tenant difficulty budgeting or making other payment(s)	2	5	3	15
Rent arrears and increase in rent	0	0	0	2
Landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property	30	65	73	106
Tenant complained to the council / agent / landlord about disrepair	0	1	0	3
Illegal eviction	0	1	0	3
Tenant abandoned property	0	0	0	3
Other reasons / not known	5	10	9	25
Rent arrears, because of Reduction in employment income	1	1	1	6
Rent arrears, because of changes in benefit entitlement	0	0	0	2
Rent arrears, because of change in personal circumstances	2	4	4	16
Breach of tenancy, not related to rent arrears	1	1	1	4
Total number of households owed a prevention duty due to end of assured shorthold (AST) private rented tenancy	41	89	96	138

Source:

Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, **Data updated:** 13 Oct 2023

ACCOMMODATION AT TIME OF APPLICATION FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A PREVENTION DUTY

This table shows the accommodation where households owed a prevention duty were staying at the time of their application for applicants in Harborough as well as the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough the most common accommodation at the time of application was Private rented sector in 2022/23, with 'living with family' or 'living with friends' making up most of the remainder. This is in common with the other

East Midlands districts, although they reported just over 10% of applicants arising from the social rented sector.

Number of households owed a prevention duty by accommodation at time of application

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
Private rented sector	44	99	110	142
Social rented sector	0	23	16	95
Owner-occupier / shared ownership	0	4	4	14
Living with family	22	47	39	120
Living with friends	6	16	13	70
Temporary accommodation	0	1	0	4
No fixed abode	0	0	0	4
Rough sleeping	0	0	0	1
Refuge	0	0	0	5
NASS accommodation	0	0	0	5
Institution	1	4	1	45
Total owed a prevention duty	75	200	190	349

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

HOUSEHOLD TYPE AT TIME OF APPLICATION FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A PREVENTION DUTY

This table shows the composition of households owed a prevention duty at the time of their application in Harborough as well as the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In 2022/23 most of these households were comprised of Single parent – Female or Single adult - Female in Harborough. Couples with dependent children and single adult males represented the majority of the remainder. Applicants in these categories represented a higher proportion of the total than those in other districts across the East Midlands.

Household type at time of application for households owed a prevention duty

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
Single parent with dependent children - Male	0	5	4	9
Single parent with dependent children - Female	26	57	55	100
Single parent with dependent children - Other / gender not known	0	0	0	1
Single adult - Male	12	50	42	105
Single adult - Female	19	37	33	84
Single adult - Other / gender not known	0	0	0	2
Couple / two adults with dependent children	13	27	28	54
Couple / two adults without dependent children	4	17	17	33
Three or more adults with dependent children	1	3	3	11
Three or more adults without dependent children	0	3	3	8
Not known	0	0	0	3
Total owed a prevention duty	75	200	190	349

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

REASON FOR HOUSEHOLDS' PREVENTION DUTY ENDING

This table shows the reasons for prevention duty ending, where prevention duty had ended, for households in Harborough along with the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough prevention duty most commonly ended due to Homeless (including intentionally homeless) in 2022/23 with 75% of applicants progressing to a full application. This contrasts significantly with the other East Midlands districts, with a mean average of 22% following the full homelessness decision pathway. Anecdotally, homelessness prevention has mainly been achieved through challenging s.21 notices seeking possession. This highlights a need to increase the focus on prevention of homelessness in Harborough.

Number of households whose prevention duty ended by reason for duty end

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23 Q4			
	Households			
Secured accommodation for 6+ months	4	30	29	89
Homeless (including intentionally homeless)	12	11	10	47
Refused suitable accommodation offer	0	0	0	5
Refused to cooperate	0	0	0	1
Contact lost	0	4	4	18
Withdrew application / applicant deceased	0	1	1	4
56 days elapsed and no further action	0	2	1	9
No longer eligible	0	0	0	2
Not known	0	0	0	0
Total number of households where prevention duty ended	16	49	47	114

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION SECURED FOR HOUSEHOLDS AT END OF PREVENTION DUTY

This table shows the number of households where prevention duty ended with accommodation secured by the type of accommodation secured for applicants in Harborough, alongside the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

Social rented sector and Private rented sector were the two most commonly secured types of accommodation in Harborough in 2022/23.

Number of households whose prevention duty ended by type of accommodation secured

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands			
					2022/23 Q4		
					Households		
Private rented sector	1	10	9	23			
Social rented sector	3	16	16	65			
Staying with family	0	2	1	8			
Staying with friends	0	0	0	2			
Owner/occupier	0	0	0	1			
Other	0	1	0	5			
Not known	0	1	0	32			
Total number of households where prevention duty ended with accommodation secured	4	30	29	89			

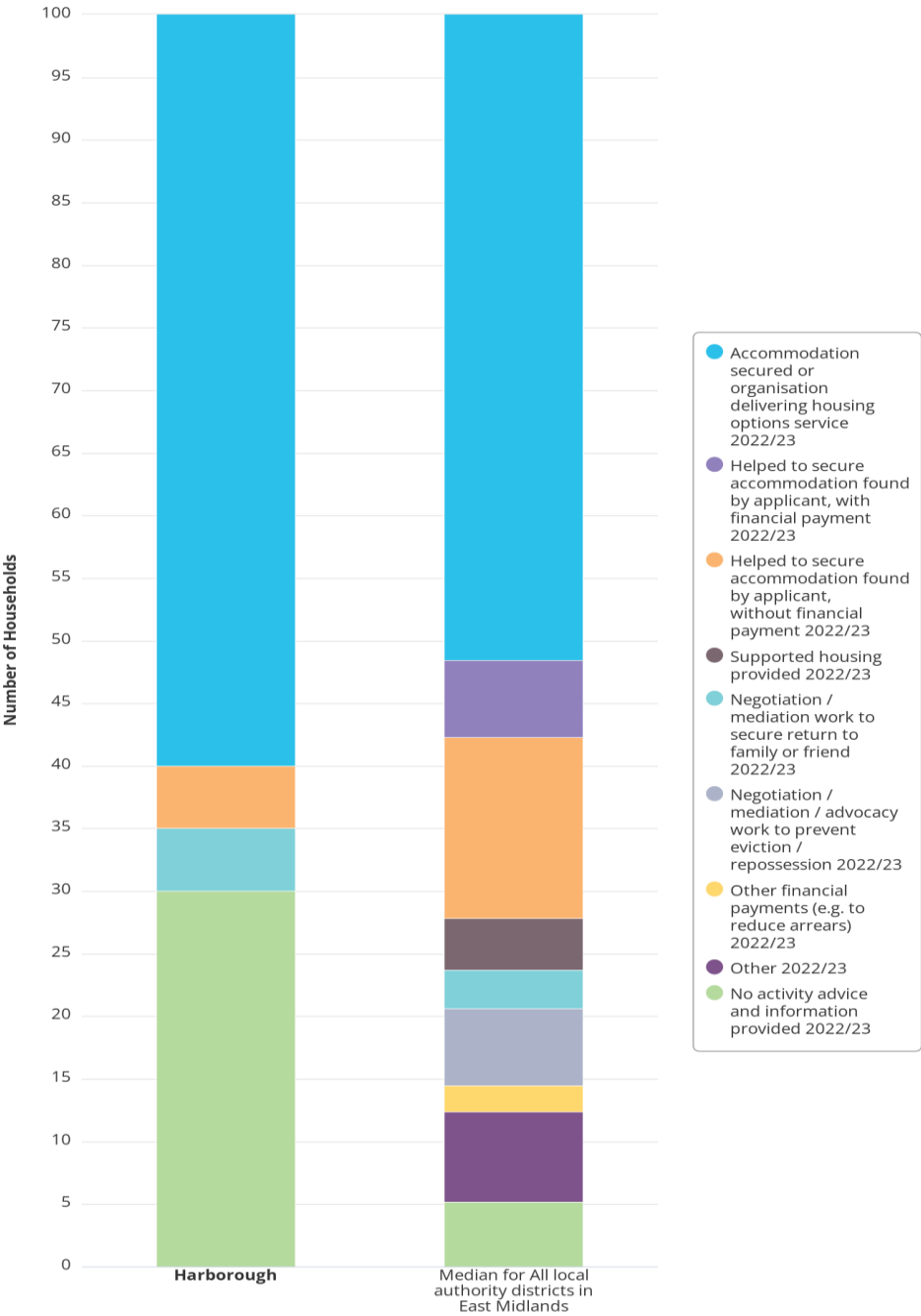
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

MAIN PREVENTION ACTIVITY THAT RESULTED IN ACCOMMODATION SECURED FOR HOUSEHOLDS AT END OF PREVENTION DUTY

This chart shows the proportion of activities which resulted in households in Harborough securing accommodation at end of prevention duty, as well as the median proportions for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough the main prevention activity that most commonly resulted in households securing accommodation was Accommodation secured by local authority or organisation delivering housing options service in 2022/23.

Main prevention activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households at end of prevention duty (Annual)



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

HOUSEHOLD TYPE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCOMMODATION SECURED AT END OF PREVENTION DUTY

This table shows the composition of the households that had secured accommodation at end of prevention duty for Harborough, alongside the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

The picture oin Harborough is broadly in line with the other districts.

Household type of households with accommodation secured at end of prevention duty

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
Single parent with dependent children - Male	0	2	2	10
Single parent with dependent children - Female	5	32	33	74
Single parent with dependent children - Other / gender not known	0	0	0	0
Single adult - Male	6	31	26	81
Single adult - Female	5	24	24	58
Single adult - Other / gender not known	0	0	0	1
Couple / two adults with dependent children	3	17	16	35
Couple / two adults without dependent children	1	11	9	27
Three or more adults with dependent children	0	2	2	5
Three or more adults without dependent children	0	2	2	4
Not known	0	0	0	0
Total with accommodation secured at end of prevention duty	20	120	115	251

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

7 Service Users' Journeys for Households Owed a Relief Duty

Households who are statutorily homeless and require help to secure settled accommodation are owed a relief duty. The duty lasts 56 days, and can only be extended by a local authority if the households would not be owed the main homelessness duty.

REASON FOR LOSS OF LAST SETTLED HOME FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A RELIEF DUTY

This table shows the reasons why applicants assessed as owed a relief duty in Harborough were threatened with homelessness, along with the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

The most common reasons for loss of last settled home for households owed a relief duty in Harborough in 2022/23 were domestic abuse and family/friends no longer willing or able to accommodate. The reasons are broadly in line with the picture across the East Midlands, although the proportion due to domestic abuse is slightly higher in Harborough.

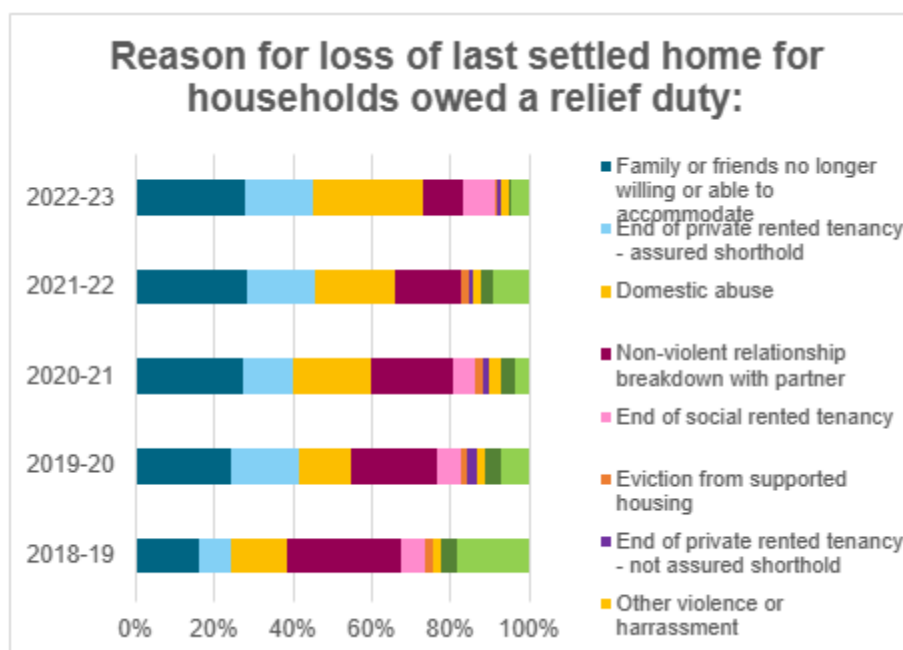
Reason for loss of last settled home for households owed a relief duty

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
End of assured shorthold (AST) private rented tenancy	31	27	23	98
End of non-AST private rented tenancy	2	5	5	19
Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate	51	59	48	158
Non-violent relationship breakdown with partner	19	23	20	74
Domestic abuse	51	41	34	94
Other violence or harrassment	4	8	7	24
End of social rented tenancy	14	7	5	20

Eviction from supported housing	1	12	7	80
Left institution with no accommodation available	1	10	8	54
Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support	0	1	0	7
Other reasons / not known	8	11	9	40
Total owed a relief duty	182	203	177	650

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

Looking back over the past five years, the proportion of households owed a relief duty under each reason for loss of last settled home is shown in the table below. An increase in the proportion where family or friends are no longer willing or able to accommodate is further outweighed by the increase in those needing to leave as a result of domestic abuse.



REASON FOR END OF ASSURED SHORTHOLD (AST) PRIVATE RENTED TENANCY FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A RELIEF DUTY

This table provides a breakdown of the reasons for the end of assured shorthold (AST) private rented tenancy for applicants in Harborough assessed as owed a relief duty were threatened with homelessness, alongside the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough the most common reason for the end of assured shorthold private rented tenancies was 'Landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property' in 2022/23. This is in line with the other East Midlands districts, although the number in Harborough is higher than the average.

Reason for end of assured shorthold (AST) private rented tenancy for households owed a relief duty

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
Rent arrears, Tenant difficulty budgeting or making other payment(s)	2	2	2	7
Rent arrears and increase in rent	0	0	0	1
Tenant complained to the council / agent / landlord about disrepair	0	0	0	3
Illegal eviction	2	1	0	5
Tenant abandoned property	0	2	2	6
Landlord wishing to sell or relet the property	19	11	9	38
Rent arrears, because of Reduction in employment income	0	1	0	4
Rent arrears, because of changes in benefit entitlement	0	0	0	4
Rent arrears, because of change in personal circumstances	2	3	2	9
Breach of tenancy, not related to rent arrears	0	1	1	4
Other reasons / not known	6	7	4	34
Total number of households owed a relief duty due to End of assured shorthold (AST) private rented tenancy	31	27	23	98

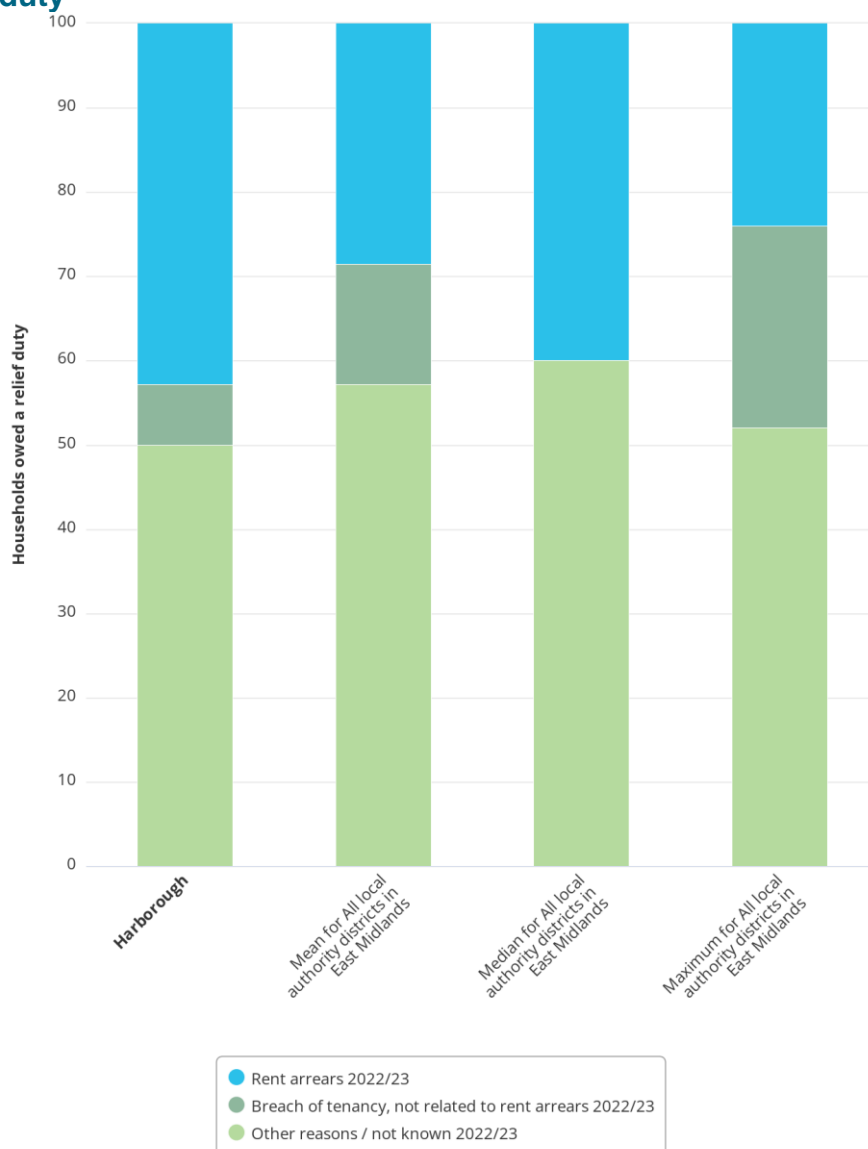
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

REASON FOR END OF SOCIAL RENTED TENANCY FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A RELIEF DUTY

This chart shows the proportion of the reasons for the end of social rented tenancy for applicants assessed as owed a relief duty were threatened with homelessness in Harborough, as well as the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

The most common reason for the end of social rented tenancy in Harborough in 2022/23 was Other reasons / not known but the most significant known reason was rent arrears. This reason was higher in Harborough than the other districts where a greater proportion were due to other breaches of tenancy.

Reason for end of social rented tenancy for households owed a relief duty



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

REASON FOR EVICTION FROM SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A RELIEF DUTY

This chart shows the proportion of reasons for eviction from supported housing for applicants assessed as owed a relief duty were threatened with homelessness for Harborough, as well as the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

The only reason recorded for eviction from supported housing in Harborough in 2022/23 was Other reasons / not known. This does not enable any conclusions to be drawn about why evictions happened and what can be done to prevent this in future so the Strategy will need to reflect anecdotal evidence in this respect.

ACCOMMODATION AT TIME OF APPLICATION FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A RELIEF DUTY

This table shows the accommodation where households owed a relief duty were staying at the time of their application for Harborough, along with the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough the most common accommodation at the time of application was Living with family or friends in 2022/23 with 36% of households in these categories. This is in line with the picture across the East Midlands. A higher proportion of households had lived in the private rented sector and a lower proportion had no fixed abode compared with the other districts.

Number of households owed a relief duty by accommodation at time of application

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
Private rented sector	37	28	22	86
Social rented sector	27	19	14	81
Owner-occupier / shared ownership	5	4	3	15
Living with family	50	50	43	138
Living with friends	17	24	19	97
Temporary accommodation	0	5	3	30
No fixed abode	25	34	24	100
Rough sleeping	8	17	15	84
Refuge	3	5	4	15
NASS accommodation	0	0	0	6
Departure from institution	6	12	8	56
Other / not known	4	4	3	14
Total owed a relief duty	182	203	177	650

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

HOUSEHOLD TYPE AT TIME OF APPLICATION FOR HOUSEHOLDS OWED A RELIEF DUTY

This table shows the composition of households owed a relief duty at the time of their application for Harborough, alongside the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough most households owed a relief duty were comprised of Single adults in 2022/23 with 57% being in these two categories at a ratio of 56:44 male to female. This is significantly different from the other East Midlands districts where the ratio is 68:32. Single parents with dependent children formed the next highest cohort in Harborough with 26 or 31% being in these categories.

Household type at time of application for households owed a relief duty

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
Single parent with dependent children - Male	2	5	4	13
Single parent with dependent children - Female	54	41	33	100
Single parent with dependent children - Other / gender not known	0	0	0	2
Single adult - Male	58	90	79	321
Single adult - Female	46	42	36	132
Single adult - Other / gender not known	0	0	0	3
Couple / two adults with dependent children	12	11	10	39
Couple / two adults without dependent children	9	12	11	41
Three or more adults with dependent children	1	1	1	10
Three or more adults without dependent children	0	1	1	3
Not known	0	0	0	3
Total owed a relief duty	182	203	177	650

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

REASON FOR HOUSEHOLDS' RELIEF DUTY ENDING

This table shows the reasons for households' prevention duty ending where relief duty ended for applicants in Harborough, as well as the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough relief duty most commonly ended due to the applicant securing accommodation or the statutory 56 days of relief having elapsed and no further action in 2022/23. This is roughly in line with the picture across the East Midlands.

Number of households whose relief duty ended by reason for duty end

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23 Q4			
	Households			
Secured accommodation for 6+ months	27	31	27	83
56 days elapsed	28	22	14	78
Local connection referral accepted by other LA	0	0	0	2
Intentionally homeless from accommodation provided	0	1	0	3
Refused final accommodation	1	1	1	5
Notice served due to refusal to cooperate	0	0	0	1
Contact lost	0	6	4	22
Withdrew application / applicant deceased	2	3	3	10
No longer eligible	0	0	0	3
Not known	0	0	0	0
Total number of households where relief duty ended	58	65	52	166

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION SECURED FOR HOUSEHOLDS AT END OF RELIEF DUTY

This table shows the number of households in Harborough where relief duty ended with accommodation secured by the type of accommodation secured alongside the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In common with the other districts, the majority of households securing accommodation at the end of a relief duty achieved this within the social rented sector in Harborough in 2022/23.

Number of households whose relief duty ended by type of accommodation secured

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23 Q4			
	Households			
Private rented sector	3	6	5	16
Social rented sector	24	22	18	69
Staying with family	0	1	1	4
Staying with friends	0	0	0	3
Owner/occupier	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	0	5
Total number of households where relief duty ended with accommodation secured	27	31	27	83

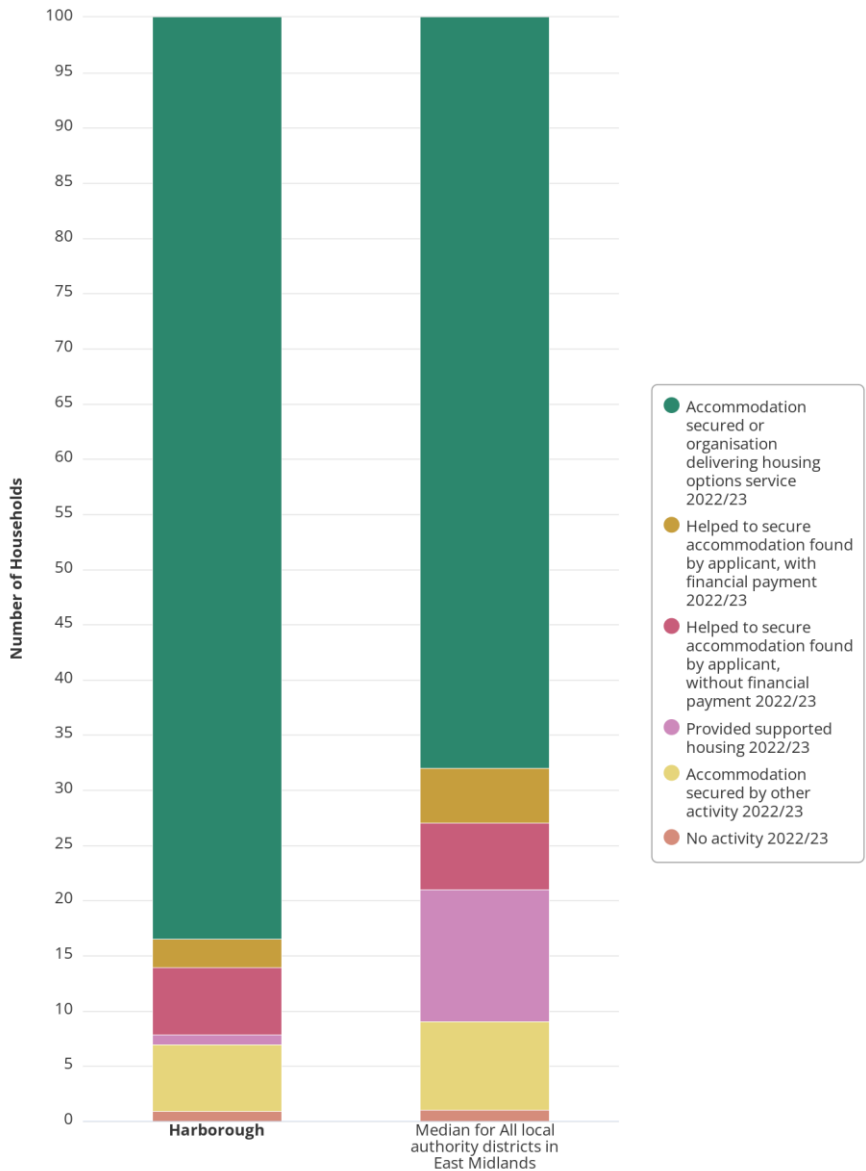
Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

MAIN RELIEF ACTIVITY THAT RESULTED IN ACCOMMODATION SECURED FOR HOUSEHOLDS AT END OF RELIEF DUTY

This chart shows the proportion of activities which resulted in households securing accommodation at end of relief duty for Harborough as well as the median figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough the relief activities that most commonly resulted in households securing accommodation were Accommodation secured by local authority and other support to secure accommodation in 2022/23. The proportion of households provided with supported accommodation was lower in Harborough than the other districts due to lack of supply of supported accommodation in the area.

Main relief activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households at end of prevention duty



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

HOUSEHOLD TYPE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCOMMODATION SECURED AT END OF RELIEF DUTY

This table shows the composition of the households which had secured accommodation at end of relief duty. This chart shows the proportion of households who secured alternative accommodation at the end of prevention duty by their destination for Harborough along with the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough the household type that most commonly secured accommodation at end of relief duty in 2022/23 were single adults representing 50% of the total, this being lower than the average for other districts in the East Midlands (61%). The converse is true of the proportion of households being single parents with dependent children with these representing 31%, compared to 24% for the other districts.

Household type of households with accommodation secured at end of relief duty

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23			
	Households			
Single parent with dependent children - Male	2	3	2	15
Single parent with dependent children - Female	34	26	24	60
Single parent with dependent children - Other / gender not known	0	0	0	2
Single adult - Male	36	52	43	185
Single adult - Female	22	22	19	76
Single adult - Other / gender not known	0	0	0	2
Couple / two adults with dependent children	11	9	8	21
Couple / two adults without dependent children	10	8	6	34
Three or more adults with dependent children	0	1	0	9
Three or more adults without dependent children	0	1	1	3
Not known	0	0	0	0
Total number of households where relief duty ended with accommodation secured	115	122	99	397

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 13 Oct 2023

8 Service Users' Journeys for Households Owed a Main Duty

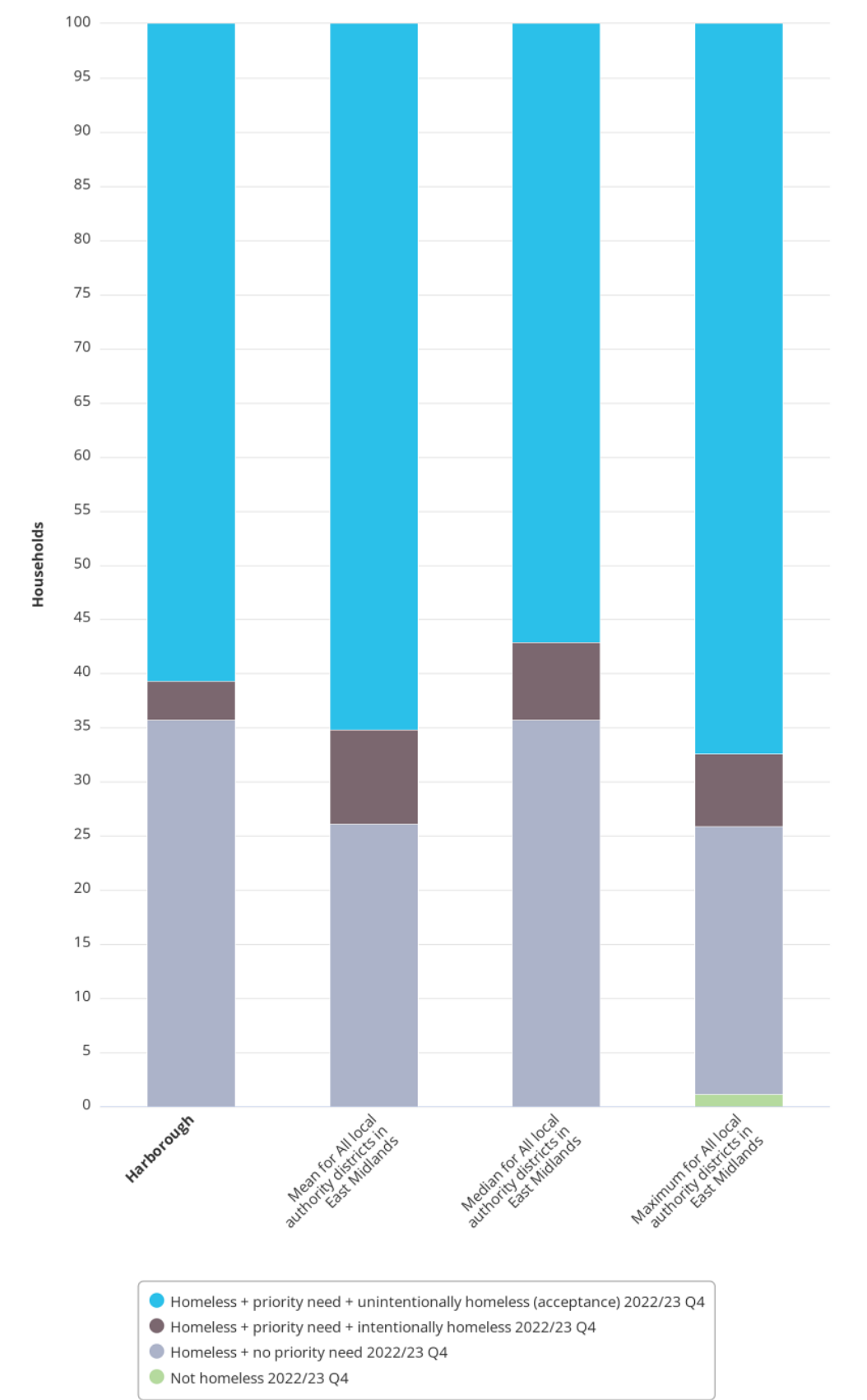
Households that are threatened with homelessness within 56 days are owed help from the local authority to prevent homelessness and the authority must work to relieve homelessness for those who are actually homeless. Main homelessness duty describes the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need 2. This definition has not been changed by the 2017 HRA. However, these households are now only owed a main duty if their homelessness has not been successfully prevented or relieved.

Outcome of main duty decisions for eligible households

This chart shows the proportion of the outcomes of main duty decisions made for households who reached the end of relief duty in Harborough as well as the median proportions for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

61% of households owed a main duty in Harborough in Q4 2022/23 were found to be Homeless and in priority need. 36% were found to have no priority need and very few were found to be intentionally homeless.

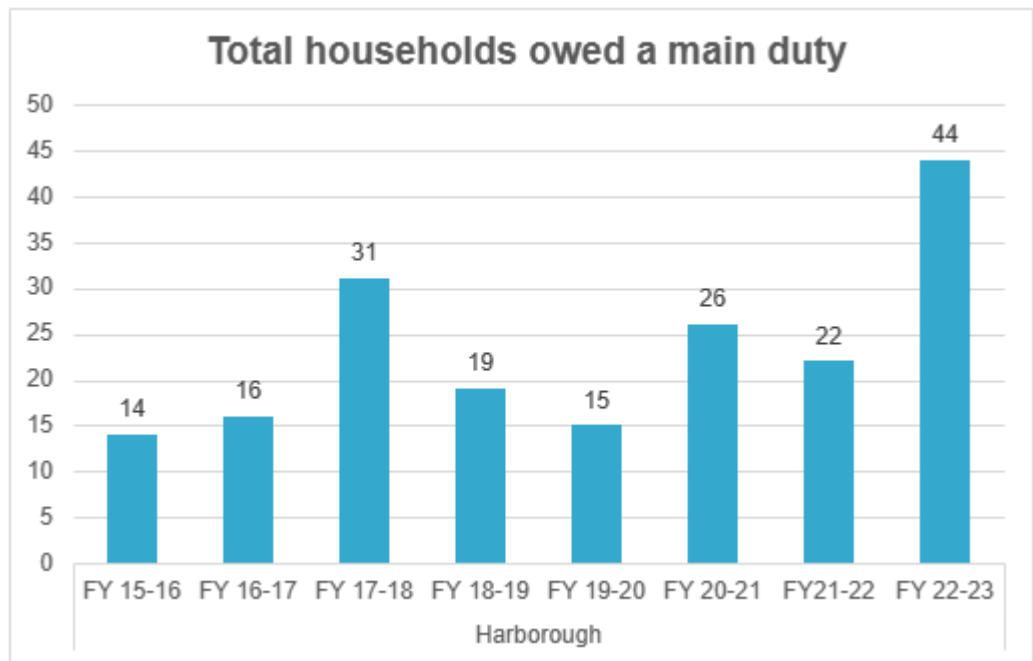
Number of households by decision on duty owed at end of relief duty



Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

The total number of households owed a main duty in Harborough each year since 2015/16 is shown in the table below. Following a peak in 2017/18 the

number reduced until a doubling of the number between 2021/22 and 2022/23. This was due to the number of allocations reducing during the year, resulting in more households progressing to a Main Duty, rather than being rehoused during the period of their Relief Duty.



NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS OWED A MAIN DUTY BY PRIORITY NEED

This table shows the priority need category of households owed a main duty in Harborough along with the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

Most households in Harborough were owed a main duty due to being a household that included dependent children in 2022/23 Q4. This proportion, and that for the other priority need categories, are in line with the average across the East Midlands.

Number of households owed a main duty by priority need

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23 Q4			
	Households			
Household includes dependent children	11	12	7	37
Household includes a pregnant woman	2	1	0	3
Household member vulnerable as a result of old age	0	0	0	1
Household member vulnerable as a result of Physical disability / ill health	2	2	1	12
Household member vulnerable as a result of Mental health problems	0	1	1	7
Household member vulnerable as a result of young applicant	0	0	0	1
Household member vulnerable as a result of Domestic abuse	2	1	1	3
Household member vulnerable as a result of other reasons	0	1	0	4
Homeless because of emergency	0	0	0	1
Total households owed a main duty	17	15	8	60

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS WHOSE MAIN DUTY ENDED BY REASON FOR DUTY END

This table shows the reasons for households' main duty ending where main duty has ended for Harborough alongside the mean, median and maximum figures for All local authority districts in East Midlands.

In Harborough in Q4 2022/23, main duty was most commonly ended due to an offer of social housing being accepted. This and other reasons were in line with the other districts.

Number of households whose main duty ended by reason for duty end

Metric type	Harborough	Mean for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Median for All local authority districts in East Midlands	Maximum for All local authority districts in East Midlands
	2022/23 Q4			
	Households			
Housing Act 1996 Pt6 social housing offer - Accepted	16	11	9	40
Housing Act 1996 Pt6 social housing offer - Refused	2	1	0	6
Private rented sector offer - Accepted	0	1	0	4
Private rented sector offer - Refused	0	0	0	0
Refused suitable TA offer, withdrew or lost contact	1	1	0	3
Ceased to be eligible	0	0	0	1
Became intentionally homeless from TA	1	0	0	1
Voluntarily ceased to occupy accommodation	0	0	0	2
Not known	0	0	0	5
Total households no longer owed a main duty	20	14	10	47

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, Data updated: 27 Jul 2023

Consultation Process and outcomes

Strategy for Housing and Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

The draft strategy was presented on the Council website between 12 January 2024 until 5 February 2024 for public comments. A copy of the draft strategy was sent to all elected members, key council officers, all Registered Provider partners, contacts in the local specialist voluntary sector and to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The consultative process was pushed through several Council social media channels including Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) and shared on the Council's website.

To support respondents in the completion of the consultation, a set of questions were provided, these were:

1. Are there any priorities that you think are important that have not been included under any of the themes?
2. Are the objectives right and do they respond to the relevant priority effectively?
3. Do you think the actions we propose under each priority are the right ones? Is there anything else we should do?
4. Please tell us how you and your organisation could be engaged to help us address the priorities and fulfil the objectives of the Strategy.

In addition to the draft strategy, an evidence base document containing supporting statistics was also available online to consultees.

Outline of the responses received

Responses were received from a number of organisations and individuals. In keeping with accepted practice, we will not identify the respondents.

Overall, the Strategy has been very well received and this came through clearly from responses received during the consultation period from partners and key stakeholders.

Below noted are the comments received from Registered Providers (Housing Associations) and partner organisation:

- The Strategy is comprehensive and sets out the key data on the district and current operating environment.

- We are supportive of the overall approach and aspirations and will continue to work in partnership with Harborough District Council and other partners.
- I do not feel that there is any priority that has been omitted, that the objectives are right and proposed actions are appropriate. Everything reflects the nature of the district and is supported by an evidence base.
- A really robust Strategy, and we are happy to support its aims.

Resulting actions

Following the consultation some minor amendments were made to the Strategy these are noted below:

- Clarifying that 'the Kibworths' comprise both Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt.
- In the introduction there was an amendment to take into account the current local plan consultation as follows.

The Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 sets a target for additional homes across all tenures of 557 new dwellings per year. A new Local Plan is currently being prepared and is expected to be adopted during the lifetime of this strategy

Harborough District Council Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment is an on-going proactive process which requires us to consider the effect our decisions are likely to have on local communities, service users and employees, particularly those most vulnerable and at risk of disadvantage.

This document has been designed to assist in the collation of information and evidence required to support the 'Due Regard' process when introducing new policies/procedures/functions and services or reviewing existing ones.

For help with this template please view the [guidance document](#), which contains advice to assist you when you are considering the impact (both positive and negative) of the proposed actions on each of the protected equality characteristics.

Name of policy/procedure/function/service being assessed: Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Department and section: Housing

Name of lead officer: Steve Nash

Other people involved (assisting or reviewing – including any service users or stakeholder groups etc.):

Date assessment commenced: 24 January 2024

Date assessment submitted for sign off:

Step 1: Defining the policy/procedure/function/service

Is this a new, amended, or reviewed policy? What are the aims, objectives and purpose and how will they be achieved? What are the main activities and which communities are likely to be affected by these activities? What are the expected outcomes?

The current Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping strategy runs from 2019 until 2024 and a new strategy covering 2024-2029 is being consulted upon with a view to being adopted.

The strategy comments upon increasing the supply of affordable homes, including homes specifically for people with a health issue, disability and for people experiencing multiple disadvantage such as those who have experienced domestic abuse and care leavers. Also covered is improving standards of existing homes, enabling people to remain in their existing homes and tackling empty homes. The section addressing homelessness covers a continuing emphasis on preventing homelessness, responding to those experiencing domestic abuse and rough sleeping in addition to ensuring sufficient temporary accommodation

Step 2: Data collection & evidence

What relevant evidence, research, data, and other information do you have and is there any further research, data, or evidence you need to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known effects of the policy on different communities? Include quantitative data as well as qualitative intelligence such as community input and advice.

Analysis of housing related applications shows that broadly speaking we have more applications from women and those from BAME groups than would be expected from the census data. Of those who answered our disability related questions over two thirds advised that they considered themselves to have a disability.

Ethnicity	Census %	Housing Register %	Housing Register
Any other ethnic group	5.4	3.6	0.3
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi			0.4
Asian or Asian British - Indian			2.1
Asian or Asian British - Other			0.1
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani			0.7
Black or Black British - African	0.7	1.9	1.1
Black or Black British - Caribbean			0.8
Don't know / refused		1.5	1.5
Mixed - Other	2.1	5.6	1.7
Mixed - White and Asian			0.7
Mixed - White and Black African			0.6
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean			2.6
Other ethnic group: Arab	0.24	0.4	0.4
White - British	91	87	79.2
White - Irish			0.3
White Other - Greek/ Greek Cypriot			0.1

White Other - Gypsy/Roma			0.3
White Other - Irish Traveller			1.0
White Other - Kurdish			0.3
White Other - Other			5.4
White Other - Turkish			0.4

Gender	Census %	Housing Register %
Female	50.5	61
Male	49.5	39

Sexual orientation	Census %	Housing Register %
Prefer not to say	6	9
Heterosexual	92	83
Bisexual	<1	4
Gay	1	1
Lesbian		1
Other	<1	2

Disability	Homeless %
Blindness or partial loss of sight	1.0
Deafness or partial loss of hearing	2.7
Developmental disorder	0.4
Learning disability	4.5
Long term illness or condition	15.4
Mental ill health	35.3
No disabilities	37.8
Other disabilities	2.9
Physical disability	0.0

Housing Register data

Bedroom need	Count of applicants	Housing Register %
1 bed need	408	46.6%
2 bed need	278	31.8%
3 bed need	136	15.5%
4 bed need	38	4.3%
5 bed need	13	1.5%
6 bed need	1	0.1%
7 bed need	1	0.2%
8 bed need	0	0.0%
	875	

Step 3: Consultation and involvement

Have you consulted and if so, outline what you did and who you consulted with and why.

The draft strategy was presented on the Council website between 12 January 2024 until 5 February 2024 for public comments. A copy of the draft strategy (via a link or an attachment) was sent to all elected members, key Council Officers, all Registered Provider partners, contacts in the local specialist voluntary sector and to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The consultative process was pushed through several Council social media channels including Facebook and X (formerly Twitter)

To assist in responding a set of questions were provided

1. Are there any priorities that you think are important that have not been included under any of the themes?
2. Are the objectives right and do they respond to the relevant priority effectively?
3. Do you think the actions we propose under each priority are the right ones? Is there anything else we should do?
4. Please tell us how you and your organisation could be engaged to help us address the priorities and fulfil the objectives of the Strategy.

In addition to the draft strategy a copy of the Evidence base (a 61 page document containing supporting statistics) was also available online.

Responses were received from a number of organisations and individuals. In keeping with accepted practice, we will not identify the respondents.

Overall, the Strategy has been very well received and this came through clearly from responses received during the consultation period from partners and key stakeholders. Below noted are the comments received:

A partner Registered Provider (a Housing Association) stated; The Strategy is comprehensive and sets out the key data on the District and current operating environment.

.... as an existing Registered Housing Partner we are supportive of the overall approach and aspirations and will continue to work in partnership with Harborough District Council and other partners.

Another Registered Provider commented: I do not feel that there is any priority that has been omitted, that the objectives are right and proposed actions are appropriate Everything reflects the nature of the District and is supported by an evidence base

Another Partner Organisation also commented: A really robust Strategy and we are happy to supports its aims.....

Step 4: Potential impact

Considering the evidence from the data collection and feedback from consultation, which communities will be affected and what barriers may these individuals or groups face in relation to Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, current and ex-armed forces personnel (Veterans), deprived or disadvantaged communities and also the potential impact on Community Cohesion. Remember people have multiple characteristics so the impact of a policy on a particular community may impact people within the community differently. Where possible include numbers likely to be affected.

The strategy impacts on a wide range of people. Those particularly impacted are households on a low income and therefore unable to access other forms of accommodation such as home ownership and private rental. This includes, but is not limited to those

- Out of work or on zero hours or limited hours contracts
- Leaving Care
- Leaving the Armed Forces
- Fleeing Domestic Abuse
- Newly arrived in the country such as Ukrainians and former asylum seekers

Step 5: Mitigating and assessing the impact

If you consider there to be actual or potential adverse impact or discrimination, please outline this below. State whether it is justifiable or legitimate and give reasons. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people. Consider what barriers you can remove, whether reasonable adjustments may be necessary and how any unmet needs have identified can be addressed.

There is a focus on those households who are homeless in consequence of domestic abuse. This is justified as it remains a leading cause of homelessness (29% of cases) and has been highlighted as a priority under the new and strengthened provisions of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

There is also a focus on increasing single person accommodation. This is justified as single person households account for 47% of the Housing Register.

Otherwise the strategy continues to provide services for those who are in housing need. These services are guided by primary and secondary statute, codes of guidance and precedent setting case law – all of which are outside of the Council's direct control. The council continues to provide tailored advice to those prescribed in statute and guidance including:

- (a) persons released from prison or youth detention accommodation,
- (b) care leavers,
- (c) former members of the regular armed forces,
- (d) victims of domestic abuse,
- (e) persons leaving hospital,
- (f) persons suffering from a mental illness or impairment,

Step 6: Making a decision

Summarise your findings and give an overview of whether the policy will meet Harborough District Council's responsibilities in relation to equality, diversity, and human rights. Does it contribute to the achievement of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty – eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?

The new strategy focuses on increasing the supply of affordable homes. The strategy builds on the previous strategy to ensure there is adequate emergency accommodation and services for people who are in housing need.

The strategy does not adversely impact on the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty. Where certain groups are identified for additional support then this is justified by demand/ need or through statute and guidance

Step 7: Monitoring, evaluation & review of your policy/procedure/service change

What monitoring systems will you put in place to promote equality of opportunity, monitor impact and effectiveness, and make positive improvements? How frequently will monitoring take place and who will be responsible?

Once adopted the strategy will be underpinned by an action plan. The action plan will have built in monitoring and reporting as appropriate.

Equality Improvement Plan**Equality Objective :**

Action:

Officer Responsible:

By when:

Equality Objective :

Action:

Officer Responsible:

By when:

Equality Objective :

Action:

Officer Responsible:

By when:

Signed off by: **This document should be signed off by a service manager**

Date:

Once signed off, please forward a copy for publication to Julie Clarke, Equality and Diversity Officer e-mail: j.clarke@harborough.gov.uk

