

## Harborough District Council Climate Local Annual Progress Report For 2017

July 2018

#### Introduction

Harborough District Council decided to sign up to Climate Local in April 2013. The Council then worked to put in place the resources to develop a local action plan. The action plan was ratified by full Council in July 2015. The first report on progress was published in 2016, covering the period to the end of 2015 and the second annual report in 2017. This report is the third annual report on progress of the action plan, which highlights the achievements to the end of 2017.

#### **1.1** Where we are

Harborough District covers an area of 238 square miles of rural 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 District's population is estimated as 90,416 in 2016 mid year population<sup>1</sup>. The population is split between the two market towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth (37%), large villages of Broughton Astley, Great Glen, Kibworth and Fleckney (27%) and Bushby, Thurnby and Scraptoft part of Leicester's Principal Urban Area (6%). The remaining 30% of the District's population live in the smaller rural settlements, 71 of which, have a population of less than 500 (based on Census 2011 data).

#### **1.2** Carbon emissions

The emissions data for Harborough District from 2015 is the most recent data available for monitoring emissions<sup>2</sup>. Road transport remains the largest source of emissions, accounting for 50% of the overall emissions from the district, as shown in Figure 1. Transport has shown a steadily increasing proportion of the total emissions, as transport emissions have stayed broadly stable for the last seven years, whilst falling for other sectors. Overall emissions have decreased from 812.7 tonnes in 2005 to 653.1 tonnes in 2015. The emissions in 2015 have continued the gradual decrease.

<sup>1</sup> 

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/middlesuperoutputareamidyearpopulationestimates published October 2017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2015 published June 2017

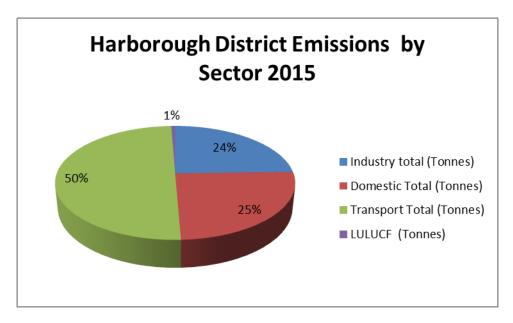


Figure 1 Harborough District Emissions by Sector 2015<sup>3</sup>

Harborough, with per capita emissions of 7.3 tonnes, ranks second highest in Leicestershire. The Leicestershire average per capita measurement is significantly lower at 6.6 tonnes and the average for England is lower again at 5.6 tonnes, with UK average at 5.9 tonnes. The table below shows the emissions per capita for each of the sectors, from 2005 to 2015 (the latest date for which figures are available). Emissions from all sectors have fallen since 2005. Harborough emissions are declining more slowly than the Leicestershire per capita average, as shown in Figure 2. Leicestershire emissions have declined by 29%, which is less than the England average (34%) or the UK average (33%), whereas Harborough District emissions have declined by only 28%. So progress in reducing emissions is not as effective as in some other areas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> LULUCF means Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry

Date	Industry (Tonnes)	Domestic (Tonnes)	Transport (Tonnes)	LULUCF (Tonnes)	Total (Tonnes)
2005	2.7	2.7	4.5	0.2	10.1
2006	2.6	2.7	4.3	0.2	9.8
2007	2.4	2.6	4.3	0.1	9.5
2008	2.5	2.6	4.0	0.1	9.2
2009	2.2	2.4	3.8	0.1	8.5
2010	2.3	2.5	3.8	0.1	8.7
2011	2.0	2.2	3.7	0.1	8.0
2012	2.1	2.4	3.6	0.1	8.2
2013	2.0	2.3	3.7	0.1	8.1
2014	2.0	1.9	3.7	0.1	7.7
2015	1.8	1.8	3.7	0.0	7.3

Table 1: Harborough District CO2 emission per capita by sector 2005 to 2015 (source: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2015">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2015</a>)

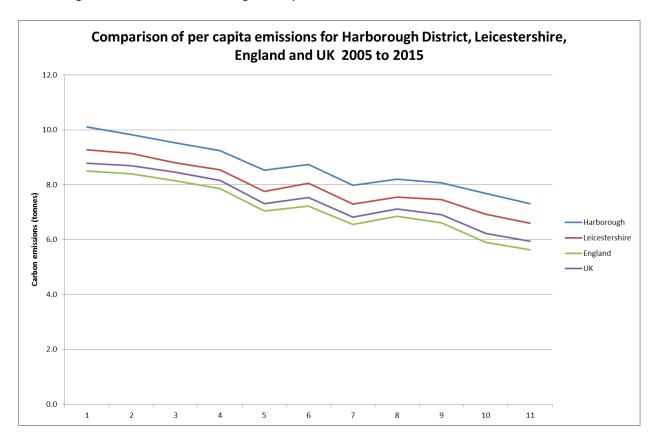


Figure 2 Harborough District Per Capita total emissions 2005 to 2015 (Source <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2015">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2015</a>)

### **1.3 Domestic Energy Consumption**

Based on data from Department of Energy and Climate Change the average domestic energy consumption across the district has reduced year on year. This trend is shown both for electricity consumption and gas consumption.

Year	Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh)	Average domestic electricity consumption per household (kWh)
2005	5223	NA
2006	5087	NA
2007	5029	NA
2008	4804	NA
2009	4707	NA
2010	4716	NA
2011	4660	NA
2012	4612	NA
2013	4495	4600
2014	4472	4505
2015	4400	4518
2016	4317	4438

Table 2: Harborough District Domestic Electricity Consumption (Source <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-to-2011">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-to-2011</a>)

Year	Mean domestic gas consumption (kWh)
2005	21,513
2006	20,524
2007	19,866
2008	19,170
2009	17,590
2010	17,468
2011	16,447
2012	16,425
2013	16,001
2014	15,561
2015	15,379
2016	15,309

**Table 3: Harborough District Domestic Gas Consumption** (Source: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/gas-sales-and-numbers-of-customers-by-region-and-local-authority">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/gas-sales-and-numbers-of-customers-by-region-and-local-authority</a>)

There is a continued reduction in average gas usage, however the reduction has slowed in 2015 and 2016 (the latest year available), which may be weather related.

Government statistics indicate that around 5,000 homes (or 14%) in the district, were not connected to the gas network in 2016

(<u>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-national-estimates-of-households-not-connected-to-the-gas-network</u>).

#### **1.4 Housing**

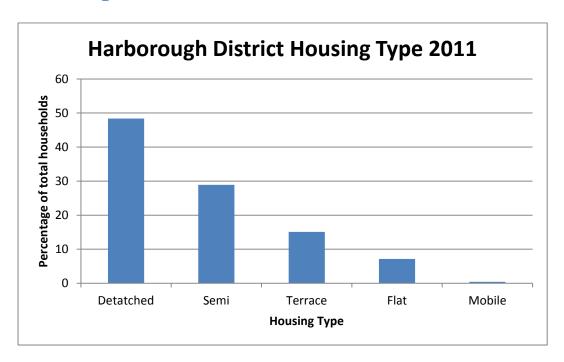


Figure 3: Distribution of housing types across Harborough District 2011 (Source Census 2011)

Harborough District has a very high proportion of detached homes, almost 50%. Many of the homes are also of older construction, as identified in the Housing Survey completed in 2010, often solid wall and so harder to keep warm. The table below identifies the number of households that meet the low income, high costs (LIHC) definition of fuel poverty.

Year	Estimated number   Number of Households in Fuel		%	
i cai	of Households	Poverty	70	
2011	35,280	4,046	11.5%	
2012	35,646	3,794	10.6	
2013	35,616	2,799	7.9	
2014	35,756	2,993	8.4	
2015	35,804	3,546	9.9	

Table 4: Numbers of Households in Fuel Poverty4

In addition there are a large number of homes that rely on oil or electricity for their heating needs. Over 20% of homes do not have gas central heating. This is due to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics#2015-statistics published June 2017

the rural nature of the district, with some villages having little or no access to the national gas grid. Gas remains the cheapest fuel for heating homes and lack of access to gas can increase the risk of fuel poverty.

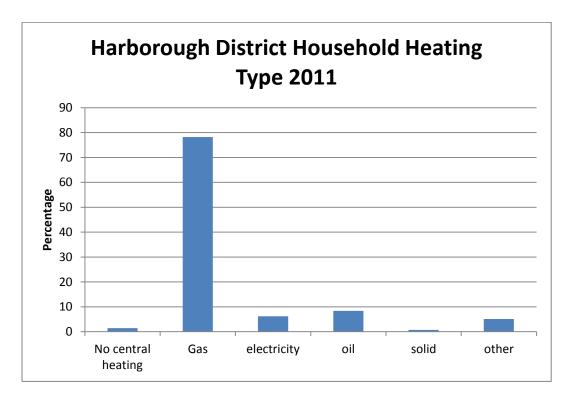


Figure 4: Harborough District household heating type (source: Census 2011)

#### 1.5 Renewable Energy

There are a number of renewable energy installations across Harborough District. There are two commercial wind farms, Low Spinney 8MW and Swinford at 22MW. In addition there are a number of smaller on farm turbines that contribute to a total of 32.2MW of installed capacity, which has not increased since 2014. There are 1,422 solar photovoltaic installations; including two large (>1MW) field-based solar installations, giving a total capacity of 10MW, which is almost double the capacity of 5.6MW in 2014<sup>5</sup>. There is one anaerobic digestion (499 kW) and two landfill gas sites with capacity of 5.6MW.There is a planning application for a new anaerobic digester. There is no hydropower capacity.

From April 2014 to December 2017, 34 accredited non domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) projects have been deployed, an increase of 2. This has delivered an increased capacity from 5.8MW to 6.5MW. Harborough has the third highest installed capacity in Leicestershire, behind Melton and Hinckley and Bosworth.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics</u> Renewable electricity by local authority updated September 2017

Domestic renewable heat installations have increased from 142 to 189. This is the highest number of installations in Leicestershire<sup>6</sup>

## 2. What we have achieved so far

This is the second annual progress report since formally adopting the Climate Local Action Plan in July 2015. This report gives an overview of the achievements in 2016. There are detailed tables of the progress against each commitment included as Appendix A. The headline achievements are described under two main areas of work: low carbon pathways and ensuring our Communities and Places are resilient to the possible impacts of climate change.

#### 2.1 Low Carbon Pathways

The Environment Co-ordinator post enables climate change projects to be coordinated across the whole council. The Environment Portfolio holder is the lead member, but there is recognition that climate change is important in other areas too, especially planning, assets and health and wellbeing.

Corporate emissions have continued to be monitored and have shown a slow downward trend. However, there is now more detailed quarterly monitoring, that has helped to identify areas where further improvements could be achieved and this is feeding into the assets management plan. The emissions from the council's own estate (scopes 1 and 2 of the inventory) in 2016/17 financial year were some 26% lower than the 2008 baseline<sup>7</sup>.

The Waste contractors have been successful in reducing the total fuel used by almost 25%, through careful route planning, driver training and investment in efficient vehicles, which were upgraded in 2016. The council has also successfully acted to reduce fly tipping and dog waste, which can impact severely on water courses.

The Market Hall building's solar photovoltaic array has been monitored and, together with the LED lighting, is indicating a reduction in energy usage. The electricity usage in 2017 was almost 19% less than the electricity usage for the financial year 2014/15 prior to the installation of the PV (July 2015) and LEDs (October 15). In addition, there have been improvements to the boiler system, with new boilers installed. This

<sup>7</sup> Available at https://www.harborough.gov.uk/directory\_record/579/carbon\_inventory

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rhi-deployment-data-december-2017

has also reduced the electricity use as the old pumps consumed a great deal of power. Winter 2017 had very high electric usage, but reductions are apparent for winter 2018. In total the PV generated 31,204 kWh of electricity, worth around £8,000, from both savings and the Feed in Tariff.

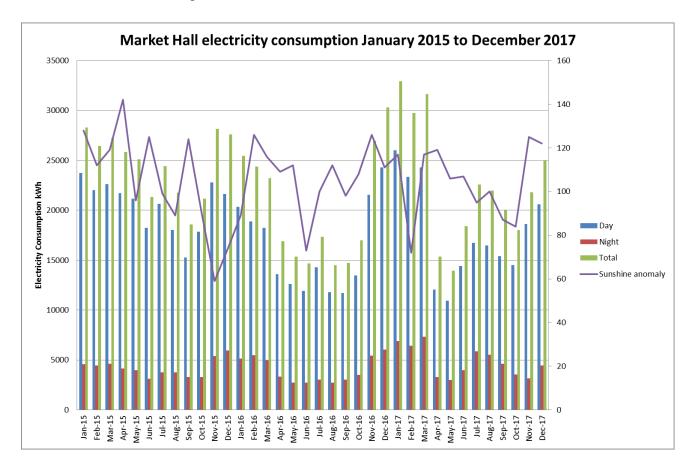
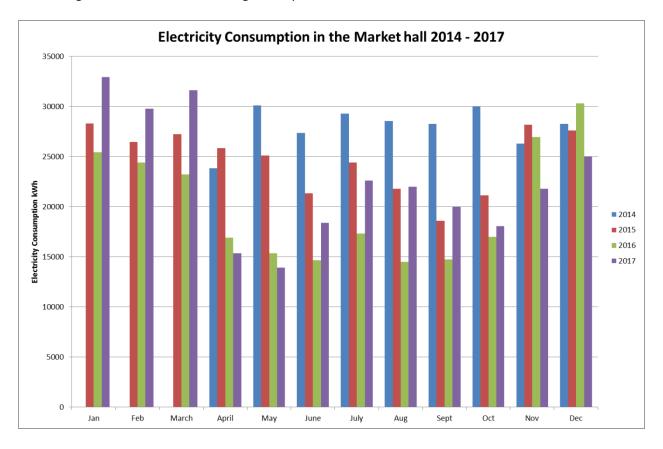


Figure 5: Improvements in Market Hall electricity consumption following the installation of PV and LEDs



Harborough District Council committed to helping residents reduce their own emissions. This has been challenging given the many changes to the domestic energy efficiency market and progress was delayed due to new Government guidelines on ECO funding. However, the Council has been able to work with the Harborough Energy, a social enterprise set up through the Sustainable Harborough Challenge, to signpost residents to opportunities for grant funded energy efficiency measures through ECO.

In total, some 83 homes have had energy efficiency measures in the final quarter of 2017. These measures correspond to carbon savings of over 2786.2 tonnes of carbon over the 20 year lifetime. The project will continue into 2018. In addition, the council has drafted an ECO help to heat flexibility criteria statement of intent, which will be published early in 2018. This allows for those who are identified as vulnerable to fuel poverty to be included in the ECO fuel poverty free measures.

Month	Number of homes	Number of lofts	Number of cavities	Total carbon savings (Tonnes) <sup>8</sup>
September	17	1	17	497.5
October	29	3	29	1030.4
November	20	0	20	666.5
December	17	2	15	591.8

Table 4 Summary of Carbon Savings from the Domestic Energy Efficiency Project (2017)

Harborough District Council has also worked in partnership with other Leicestershire Councils and public health to enable energy efficiency signposting through First Contact Plus. In addition, Leicester City Council is co-ordinating the Health through Warmth project, which provides heating systems for those with no system or a broken system. The project covers older people or those with long term illness. During 2017, the project has been extended to cover oil systems. Two residents have benefited from referral to this scheme.

Harborough District council has also carried out a project to provide two homes on a small council owned plot of land at Padgett Road. These homes have been built to a high standard, including a wheelchair accessible bungalow. The project specifically used local contractors, with all contractors used coming from within a 20 mile radius, thus reducing the emissions during construction. The homes are built with sustainable timber. Harborough District Council is investigating further opportunities for homes and local business provision.

The importance of communities taking charge of their own energy future has been recognised as an important area to act. Harborough Energy has delivered a number of community owned solar PV roof installations, and is actively working on further projects. Sustainable Harborough have promoted renewable energy and energy efficiency advice at the I Love Market Harborough annual fair. The green homes open day was also facilitated by Sustainable Harborough Challenge, allowing people to see different energy saving technologies in action.

Harborough District Council committed to helping businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. Sustainable Harborough Challenge promoted a business energy group called the Efficiency Network. Meetings included; an update on the latest legislation, speakers, and get a chance to share good practice. The events have been well

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Measured over a 20 year lifetime of the measure

attended. Green Belle is an ERDF funded scheme to support energy efficiency and low carbon measures in SMEs in Leicester and Leicestershire. Funding of up to £10,000 is available, with businesses expected to find matched funding. There have been 6 projects in Harborough District, 3 for heating, 2 LED projects and one for double glazing, with a total grant of £20,042.59. Apart from Leicester City, Harborough has the highest number of projects and size of grant.

# 2.2 Ensuring our Communities and Places are resilient to the possible impacts of climate change

In addition to actions to reduce emissions, there has also been action to ensure that our communities are prepared for climate change. Working with the Resilience forum Harborough District Council has continued working with parishes to support them in drawing up resilience plans. Thirteen parishes already have emergency plans in place, with a further eight under development.

Harborough District Council is also working with the Catchment Partnerships for the Soar and Welland rivers. The Welland River, following the very successful naturalisation project in Market Harborough, is now the focus for upstream small scale water retention projects. On the Soar, the Willow brook project is engaging with rural and urban communities to improve the brook, which joins the Soar in Leicester. The community at Houghton on the Hill are actively involved in citizen science on the brook. In addition there have been small scale flood alleviation measures, such as field storage systems put in place along the brook through collaboration with local farmers. The renowned Allerton project has been showcasing good practice on water friendly farming http://www.gwct.org.uk/allerton/.

The new draft Local Plan includes a number of mitigation and adaptation policies, including sustainable drainage and a further study on flood risk has been completed. A Water Cycle study was also completed, which gives important information on where potential actions could be taken.

Sustainable Harborough has been working with various groups to increase the profile of local food growing and buying. There are a number of new community growing projects, one at Waterloo Cottage Farm and another at a care home. There is also a "grow and pick" project that has its inspiration from the "incredible edible" model. There is a local food click and collect service. Generally the awareness and knowledge of local food has grown over the last two or three years. The local food

offer is an important aspect of Harborough Tourism and the Taste Harborough brand, started by Sustainable Harborough Challenge, is now an important part of this strand (WWW.SustainableHarborough.co.uk).

## **Next Steps**

In the next year Harborough District Council are committed to continuing to deliver on their Climate Local commitments. The particular focus for action includes better management of assets, improving domestic energy efficiency, installing electric vehicle charging points and incorporating Climate Local into the emerging Local Plan. Specific actions include:

- Review the Climate Local Action Plan for renewal in 2019
- Investigate opportunities for energy saving in the Symington Building by engaging staff in changing behaviour
- Investigate water saving opportunities
- Scope and apply for funding for work based electric vehicle charging units
- Ensure energy saving is a clear part of the new leisure contracts, including refurbishment of the leisure centres
- Collaborate with partners to deliver natural flood management projects on the river Soar and tributaries
- Continue to promote domestic energy efficiency, particularly to those in or at risk of fuel poverty and with private landlords
- Promote local food through tourism and health and wellbeing

## **Climate Local Commitments: Low carbon pathways**

Commitment: Demonstrate political and corporate commitment to acting on climate change.

**Justification:** Action on climate change helps the Council deliver its corporate goals and Harborough DC wishes to show leadership to residents and businesses within the district.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Lead Member to be appointed and staff resource allocated	Environment Co- ordinator appointed - completed	The Environment Portfolio holder has responsibility for Climate Change, although the cross cutting nature is recognised and the Environment Co-ordinator sits in Regulatory services and works closely with strategic planning team, Corporate Assets and Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
Specific information on website	Ongoing	Climate change is a specific area and is being continually developed.
Regular information on website including information on carbon emissions in the district	DECC carbon data and other information reported locally (annually)	First and second annual progress report on Climate Change are on Website. Information on projects is reported. Social media used for specific campaigns

Commitment: Manage our assets in a resource efficient manner.

**Justification:** The Council is committed to providing the public services that are value for money. Reducing waste and using energy efficiently are crucial to delivering on this priority.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Continue to upgrade Council owned buildings to reduce energy use, water use and waste created.	Monitor energy usage and water and waste data where available (Quarterly and Annually)	Symington Building north roof has had additional insulation during roof refurbishment. A more energy efficient lift has been fitted. Boilers have been replaced in Market Hall
		Quarterly gas and electricity consumption is now reported.
		An annual inventory of emissions for financial years 2013/2014; 2014/15; 2015/16 and 2016/17 has been completed and placed on website.
Encourage staff to use resources efficiently through targeted campaigns, based on monitored data	Specific events and programmes (linked to national programmes)	Initial contact with other building users has commenced
Promote sustainable transport through the green travel plan	Monitor transport modes (bi-annually)	Green travel plan has been updated. Planning for new electric charging points in staff car park in progress and promotion of car sharing and bicycle use.

**Commitment:** Work with households to promote the uptake of energy efficiency measures to reduce household carbon footprints and alleviate fuel poverty

**Justification:** Harborough DC is committed to working with communities to develop places were people wish to live and to support the vulnerable within those communities. Reducing fuel bills and helping communities be more environmentally conscious is vital to delivering our priorities.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Work with partners to encourage the uptake of all schemes for improving energy efficiency in homes of all tenancies	Contribute to the Leicestershire carbon reduction target for housing stock (Proportion of 75K tonnes).	An arrangement with Harborough Energy commenced in Summer 2017 has led to 87 energy efficiency measures and a saving of 2780 Tonnes of carbon will be achieved. The Eco help to heat flexibility statement of intent has been drafted to allow those vulnerable to fuel poverty to be better reached. It will be published early 2018.
	Record Number of Measures installed (monthly)	Npower help to heat has been extended to the district and now includes oil boilers. Two successful referrals have been completed in 2017
Work with partners to access health funding to support vulnerable people in fuel poverty	Access funding maintain and develop programmes	Leicestershire CC and public health have embedded energy efficiency advice signposting as part of first contact plus
Develop programmes with partners for rural areas, especially off gas.	Develop projects with funding via the Local Economic Partnership via Leicestershire	Discussions with the local social housing providers and parish councils have taken place

	Together	
Work with partners to encourage residents across the borough to reduce their own carbon footprint.	Sustainable Harborough project will promote and engage residents in and around Market Harborough including through ECO house project	Sustainable Harborough promoted the Green Open Homes day to show the opportunities for low carbon energy and efficiency savings. The event has grown over the last three years and now has homes across the district. (Sustainable Harborough Challenge project finished in December 2017)

**Commitment:** Support local businesses to become more resource efficient and encourage businesses in the low carbon/ green technology sector

**Justification:** Harborough District Council is committed to supporting business in the district. Reducing costs is vital for all business. The green technology sector is growing rapidly and could be an important growth area in the district. The Leicestershire Carbon Reduction Strategy aims to reduce carbon emissions from business by 90k tonnes across the county.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Support development of an Business Resource Club in Market Harborough	Waste and energy advice offered	Sustainable Harborough supported a business energy group called the Efficiency network. Meetings take place quarterly and a number of local businesses attend to hear about new legislation and share good practice.
		Green Belle offers grants for energy efficiency measures to SMES. A number of Harborough Businesses have applied.
		HDC provide a business waste recycling service, which is well used by local businesses.
Promote green travel plans via planning	Green Travel Plans required for all business development	Core strategy policy requires all large business development sites to incorporate green travel plans.
	·	New draft local plan continues to promote green travel and will be submitted for examination spring 2018
Promote local food economy with partners	In conjunction with Sustainable Harborough -	Sustainable Harborough Challenge project has led on developing a food forum, producing a second local food map and supporting development of a local food label

Food forum	"Taste Harborough". Local food distribution company "Edible 16" is established and growing. A local "Grow and Pick" project started in 2016, following the principles of incredible edible. Planters at various points in the town offered opportunities for people to pick local food. Local growing projects at Little Bowden school and Waterloo farm and at Lenthall House care home.
	HDC has embedded local food within their tourism work and is looking at Leicestershire wide sustainable food county project with an expression of interest to be submitted Jan 2018

Commitment: Support communities to take advantage of the financial opportunities offered by community energy projects.

**Justification:** Harborough DC is committed to working with communities to develop places were people wish to live. Supporting communities to be more resilient to economic change is an important part of this, particularly encouraging an entrepreneurial approach to energy.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Develop community renewable energy project in District	Feasibility study for community owned PV on Market Hall (completed)	Harborough Energy has been preparing a second renewable offer due in 2018. First projects have been completed with 57kWp capacity installed.
Promote community owned renewable energy through neighbourhood plans	Renewable energy included in emerging neighbourhood plans	Communities that are progressing Neighbourhood Plans are supported by HDC. Advice on climate change is given as required. There are 23 Neighbourhood plans at various stages of preparation and 10 "made" plans in the district
Promote awareness of Renewable Heat Initiative opportunities in off- gas areas	Information at Parish Engagement Event	Continued engagement with parishes through 2017, as well as social housing providers.

#### Climate Local Commitments: Ensuring our Communities and Places are resilient to the possible impacts of climate change

Commitment: Encourage Communities to build their resilience to climate change

**Justification:** Harborough District Council recognises that we cannot avoid the impacts of climate change, so we must build resilience. Harborough District Council recognise the distress that can be caused by weather related risks and also the costs to homes and businesses that can be incurred. Building resilience will support better places.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Include climate adaptation in neighbourhood plans, especially flood resilience, but policies for well designed adaptive buildings and multifunctional green space.	Information and guidance available throughout neighbourhood planning process	Communities that are engaged in Neighbourhood Plans are supported by HDC staff and advised where appropriate on climate change adaptation. Many seek higher standards for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
Incorporate specific risks within parish emergency plans	Information for parishes at parish engagement event. Parishes engaged with directly	HDC and the resilience forum have worked with a number of parishes on preparing emergency plans. Members of parish councils have taken part in simulation emergency events for training. There are 13 completed plans, with a further 9 under development.
Encourage Community management of green space to maintain multifunctional value for leisure, water management, possible food and wood supplies	Parishes supported to take over green space Green space plan for major development in Market Harborough developed	HDC has developed a greenspace strategy that feeds into the local plan. HDC is encouraging local parishes to be involved in local green space management. Many parishes have taken control of the management of green space.  Great Glen Wildspace has supported some other groups

		and also offer outdoor activity projects on behalf of HDC. Waterside care groups are engaged in citizen science on the Willow brook.
Promote flood protection for at risk business and homes.	Reduced risk of financial loss	Willow Brook project has identified opportunities for small scale rain storage on farms, the first of these have been delivered and offer some protection from flooding downstream. The projects will be monitored. Similar projects are also happening upstream of Market Harborough on the Welland

## Commitment: Promote good water management across the district

**Justification:** Rivers are an important aspect of a place and can contribute to the attractiveness and biodiversity of a place. Harborough District Council recognises the importance of working with partners to maintain rivers and waterways and promote sustainable drainage.

Specific action(s) <sup>ii</sup>	Measure	Progress
Support Welland River Restoration project	Improved river attractiveness, enhancing the town. Improved biodiversity	The Market Harborough Environment Group do regular litter picks around the river to maintain the benefits of the re-naturalisation project on the Welland. A showing of a movie of the restoration project has been shown in the town.
Promote sustainable drainage systems within local plan and neighbourhood plans for new developments	No increase in flood risk from new development  Enhanced green infrastructure	Sustainable drainage is required in new development through planning. New studies have been completed to help understand the flood risk issue and ensure SUDS are embedded in the emerging local plan.
Support partners working with landowners to improve water quality of rivers	Improved biodiversity	HDC engages with the Welland Catchment Partnership and the Soar Catchment Partnership. Work on the Welland has included a range of work rural pollution, including septic tanks. In the Soar Catchment work is ongoing to improve the storage of water in the rural catchment working with landowners and communities.

**Commitment:** Encourage climate resilient design

**Justification:** Harborough District Council recognises that good quality buildings are essential for the wellbeing of residents. Climate change may mean that some buildings are not fit for purpose. As the local planning authority Harborough District Council recognises it has an important role in future-proofing development.

Specific action(s)	Measure	Progress
Promotion of climate resilient buildings through the revised Local Plan policy	Robust policy in Local Plan, supporting development.	Information on overheating in new buildings and opportunities for low carbon buildings has been embedded in local plan policy.
Working with partners to bring forward local exemplars, including ECO House with Seven Locks Housing Association.	Families engaged in adapting to climate change in house and garden	The growing Green Homes open day has identified more exemplars. The river Welland Restoration has also been a local exemplar. Case studies on energy efficiency in business have also been delivered.
Investigating the development of low carbon and resilient community buildings with partners	New exemplar buildings developed  Local business engaged	Opportunities for improvements in village halls are continuing to be investigated as part of the community energy brief.

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