

Examination of the Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041

Stage 2 Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs)

Written Statement by Harborough District Council

MATTER 2: Local Plan Vision, District Portrait and Development Objectives

Whether the Plan's Development Objectives would be effective in enabling delivery of the Plan's Vision?

Matter 2, Issue 1: Plan Vision

The Council's response:

Matter 2, Issue 1, Question 1

Q1: Is the Plan's Vision consistent with NPPF paragraph 15, which sets out that succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for meeting housing needs and addressing other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings? Should it refer to meeting local housing need and a proportion of Leicester's unmet need?

1. Yes. The Plan's Vision is consistent with NPPF paragraph 15, providing a positive vision for the future of Harborough District.
2. Paragraph 2 of the Vision provides a framework for addressing housing needs, setting out where housing development will take place. Other economic, social and environmental priorities are addressed throughout the Vision. The Vision's final paragraph explains how community engagement and proactive Neighbourhood Planning provide a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.
3. No, it is not considered appropriate for the Vision to refer to meeting local housing need and a proportion of Leicester's unmet need. These are detailed technical requirements, set out clearly in the NPPF and met by other policies within the Plan. They do not need to be set out explicitly in the public-facing high-level Vision for the District.

Matter 2, Issue 1, Question 2

Q2: The PPG is clear that where a local plan contains both strategic and non-strategic policies, the non-strategic policies should be clearly distinguished from the strategic policies. [ID: 61-002-20190315]

Plan paragraph 1.15 sets out that strategic policies are included in criteria 1 and 3 of the Plan. That is noted. However, the Plan sets out Key Development Sites in Plan policy SA01. Plan policies SA02-4 set out requirements for the largest sites (Plan paragraph 5.2). In this regard is the Plan clear in its identification of strategic policies in relation to site allocations?

4. Yes. Local Plan paragraph 1.15 explains that strategic policies are those found within Parts 1 and 3.
5. Policies SA01 and SA02-SA04 are within Part 1 of the Plan. These policies are therefore clearly identified as strategic.
6. The Council's response to the Planning Inspectorate Pre-Submission Checklist [[S-NLP 14](#)] sets out a list of the strategic policies and indicates that the Council would be prepared to include this as a Main Modification, if considered necessary.

Matter 2, Issue 1, Question 3

Q3: Anglian Water has commented that some allocations may not be capable of connecting to the sewerage network immediately without increasing the risk of pollution. How has the Plan dealt with this?

7. Water Companies have a duty under The Water Industry Act 1991 to connect new developments to wastewater treatment systems. It is recognised that some wastewater treatment works within Harborough require upgrades to enable connections for new development and these need to be planned within the Water Companies' 5-year Asset Management Plans.
8. Policy DS05 paragraph 4c requires developers to liaise with water companies to ensure that these connections are in place when required.
9. Anglian Water raised concerns over some particular sites and areas with regards their wastewater connections.
10. The site HB1 in Husbands Bosworth currently has a live planning application 26/00470/OUT. Anglian Water has provided the following comment with

regards Wastewater services 'Based on the above assessment, Husbands Bosworth WRC is within the acceptance parameters and can accommodate the flows from the proposed growth.'

11. For Hallaton, Foxton and Great Easton, developers would be expected to liaise with the appropriate utilities company with regards to connection as indicated in DS05 criterion 4c.
12. In the case of the sites in Market Harborough, Great Bowden and Lubenham (MH1, MH2, MH3, GB1, GB2), some of these are live planning applications and are currently liaising with the relevant utilities companies to ensure where necessary that wastewater upgrades are in place prior to occupation. Both Anglian Water and Severn Trent Water have committed to wastewater system upgrades for Market Harborough and surrounding areas in their drainage and wastewater management plans DWMP23 and AMP8 business Plan for 2025 to 2030. All developers would be expected to liaise with the appropriate utilities company with regard to connection as indicated in DS05 criterion 4c.

Matter 2, Issue 1, Question 4

Q4: Plan paragraph 1.10 confirms that the District includes a number of made Neighbourhood Plans. What are these and what would be their relationship to this Plan?

13. There are 30 made Neighbourhood Development Plans in Harborough District in the following areas: Lubenham; Broughton Astley; Billesdon; Scraptoft; Foxton; North Kilworth; Hungarton; Great Glen; East Langton; Medbourne; Great Easton; Kibworth Harcourt and Beauchamp; Shearsby; Houghton on the Hill; Tur Langton; Burton Overy; Swinford; Great Bowden; Fleckney; Gilmorton; South Kilworth; High Leicestershire; Arnesby; Saddington; Hallaton; Husbands Bosworth; Misterton and Walcote; Dunton Bassett; Leire; Tugby & Keythorpe. All made neighbourhood Plans are available at: [Neighbourhood Planning | Harborough District Council](#).
14. Once adopted, the Plan will work alongside made Neighbourhood Plans as part of the development plan for the district. Neighbourhood Plans help to shape development by providing locally specific policy to be used in the determination of planning applications in their areas.
15. Section 99 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act amended the basic conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and requires:

“the making of the plan would not result in the development plan for the area of the authority proposing that less housing is provided by means of development taking place in that area than if the draft plan were not to be made”.

16. As such, during the preparation of this Plan, emerging policy, evidence and housing requirements have been shared with neighbourhood planning groups to help shape and future proof emerging neighbourhood plans to ensure at least as much housing is identified as required by the emerging Local Plan. Within the explanatory text to Policy DS01, Table 2 provides the total settlement housing requirement for current and future neighbourhood areas between 2020 and 2041.