

## **HBF response to Harborough Local Plan (March 2025) Examination**

### **Matter 5: Climate and Environment**

HBF is the principal representative body of the house-building industry in England and Wales. Our representations reflect the views of our membership, which includes multi-national PLC's, regional developers and small, local builders. In any one year, our members account for over 80% of all new "for sale" market housing built in England and Wales as well as a large proportion of newly built affordable housing.

Please note that we have not responded to all the questions only those of relevance to our members, and reflecting the issues in the Reg 19 response that HBF submitted.

### **Stage 2 Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs)**

#### **Matter 5: Climate and Environment**

**Whether the Plan is justified, effective and consistent with national policy in relation to Climate and Environment?**

**Policies DS03 and DS04**

#### **Issue 1: Climate Change and the Natural Environment**

**Policy DS03 Development Strategy: Tackling Climate Change and Enhancing the Natural Environment**

**1. Is it realistic to expect applications to meet all of criteria 1a) to 1e) of Policy DS03?**

No. This policy needs to be proportionate. Changes to the wording are needed to make this clear.

**4. Does the Policy's approach to green infrastructure appropriately reflect Open Space evidence?**

HBF are unclear how this policy relates to other policy requirements such as BNG and Green Infrastructure. For example the wording of criteria c) seems to suggest all hedgerows *must* be retained, when this is not how no net loss, or BNG policies work in practice.