

**Harborough Local Plan 2011 -2031:
Matters and Issues for Examination**

Hearing Statement by Leicester City Council. (5/9/2018)

Matter 5. Meeting employment needs

5.1 Does the plan provide for an appropriate amount of land and floorspace for business purposes, and is the plan effective in its approach to new employment development?

Policy BE1 'Business and Employment', proposes that a minimum of 59ha will be allocated.

The HEDNA only forecast a need between the range of 44 and 51 ha for Harborough between 2011 and 2031, rather than a "minimum of 51ha", as is stated in paragraph 6.1.7. Of the forecast HEDNA need, 16.5ha has already been built. Therefore, only between 27.5ha and 34.5ha is required to be allocated. In fact an additional 59 ha has been allocated which is between 24 and 31 ha over provision.

Further allowance is made for economic aspirations, but this is not considered to be adequate justification in itself for this. Therefore the City Council seeks further justification for the over provision of employment land in Policy BE1. This is particularly the case given that there is also proposed to be a high level of strategic B8 provision.

The City Council does not object to Matter 5.2, as it does not have sufficient land to allocate land for strategic B8 provision.