What is this Town Centre Masterplan about?
This masterplan sets out longer term proposals to improve the town centre including new buildings, more varied uses (shops, cafes, restaurants, workspaces), streets, pavements and facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

Town centres face challenging times ahead due to competition from online shopping and edge of town shopping centres, however there is an opportunity to make Market Harborough more attractive as a town centre and enable it to serve its residents and visitors better.

Market Harborough has many distinctive historic buildings, streets and spaces and the plan on Board 2 presents the location of the town centre’s conservation area and listed buildings. The masterplan will consider how these heritage assets can enhance the town centre’s prospects in the future.

What is the purpose of the study?
Harborough District Council has appointed masterplanners, TEP, to produce a study for Market Harborough town centre. The purpose of the study will be to:

• Make the town centre more welcoming and attractive for residents, shoppers, workers, businesses and visitors.
• Improve access to the town centre, making it more pedestrian and cycle friendly and accessible for people arriving by public transport or car.
• Increase the number of people visiting the town centre to enhance its vitality and help sustain businesses.
• Propose new development opportunities with uses such as residential, community, employment, hotel, food and drink.

Historic Plan
The historic plan (1886) opposite shows how the town centre initially developed around High Street, the main square and Church Street. Since the late 19th Century the town has developed considerably. Key dates in Market Harborough’s history since the 13th Century include:

• Weekly market established near the crossing point of the River Welland in 1204
• St Dionysius’ Church constructed in 1470
• Old Grammar School established from 1610
• Buildings centralised along High Street from 1776
• Establishment of long narrow burgage plots
• Town Hall constructed in 1788
• Thomas Cook (born in Market Harborough) organised first group excursion by rail from Leicester to Loughborough in 1841
• Railway service arrives in 1850
• Industries sited along Northampton Road
• Significant expansion of the town from the late 19th Century
• Market for livestock held in the main square until 1903
MARKET HARBOROUGH
TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

We would like to hear your views!

Next Steps:
• Develop a draft masterplan for the town centre.
• Second stage consultation during late 2019.
• Following second stage consultation, prepare masterplan and proposed projects for future implementation.

We need to understand:
• How the town centre currently works for residents, shoppers, workers, businesses and visitors?
• How could it work better?
• How ‘dwell time’ in the town centre could be extended?
• What improvements are needed?
• What kind of town centre should we aim for in ten to fifteen years’ time?

What makes a successful town centre?
• Choice of shops, amenities, facilities and entertainment
• Sense of community
• Opportunities for new homes, community activities and work spaces
• Attractive townscape, with high quality public spaces for pedestrians and cyclists
• Footfall and vitality
• Pedestrian and cycle friendly
• Accessible for people travelling by public transport and car