



# **Young Person Opportunities Plan**

## **2023-2028**

## **Our Vision**

Working with our communities, we will build a future for the people of Harborough district that gives them the best life chances and opportunities through:

- Community leadership to create a sense of pride in our place
- Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices
- Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations
- Supporting residents and businesses to deliver a prosperous local economy

## **Introduction**

The district of Harborough continues to retain and grow its popularity as a desirable rural location, yet still faces a number of key challenges in the growth and retention in populations of young people aged 15 – 34. To bridge the gap of inequality in opportunity and to strengthen social fabric for our young people, the following key factors require focus:

- A rapidly rising cost of living not reflected in local wages for young people
- Limited Post-16, further or higher education opportunities within the district, contributing to outward migration
- Some of the highest housing costs in the country
- Insufficient amounts of suitable and affordable housing to meet young peoples' needs
- Limited opportunities for young people to directly and effectively engage in shaping their communities

## **Our Aim**

Through delivery of this Young Persons Opportunity Plan, we are aiming to:

- 1) Raise awareness of, and access to, opportunities linked to learning, employment and housing options for 15 – 34 year olds in the district of Harborough
- 2) Retain and attract more young people to live, work and learn in the district
- 3) Support our young people to engage with the Council to ensure that their issues are considered throughout our service delivery and policy development.

## **Strategic Priorities:**

We have identified three overarching strategic priorities for young people of the Harborough district between 2023 / 28.

### **1. Encourage and support skills, training and employment opportunities within the district for young people**

Harborough District Council will:

- Promote employment and learning opportunities for young people within the Council, including continuing to offer meaningful apprenticeships.
- Encourage local businesses and the voluntary sector to help the creation of local opportunities for young people, through viable apprenticeships and employment.
- Maximise the potential for young people through the unique education and training opportunities at the Centre for Logistic Education and Research (CLEAR) at Magna Park.
- Work with partners to raise the profile of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects, particularly in relation to the need for Green Jobs and achieving carbon neutrality.

- Work with partners to reduce barriers to learning for young people, in order to tackle economic inactivity and increase social mobility.

## **2. Increase awareness and availability of suitable and affordable housing for young people**

Enabling young people the opportunity to access independent housing options, we aim to:

- Increase the availability of suitable and affordable properties to meet identified needs
- Raise awareness of government affordable housing schemes
- Reduce instances of youth homelessness.

## **3. Ensure young people are consulted on matters directly impacting their futures**

Enabling young people to have measurable input on matters that impact their futures, we aim to:

- Explore opportunities to engage with young people in relation to policy development
- Achieve diverse representation and equality throughout our service delivery

## **Action Plan**

We will develop priorities and measure our success through an action plan, which will be reviewed and updated every year.