

## Harborough District Council

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Mobile: 07818 587750  
Our ref: Local Plan Submission

By email to:

[plans.admin@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:plans.admin@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

17 April 2026

Dear Ms Parham

### **Submission of the Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 for Examination**

Following a decision of Harborough District Council at its Extraordinary Council meeting on 16 March 2026, we are pleased to submit to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for examination, the Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and regulation 4(4) of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Commencement No.11 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026.

The Plan includes both strategic and non-strategic policies, sets out a vision and proposes homes, employment land, infrastructure and other essential services to support growth in Harborough during the plan period. In summary the Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041:

- Provides for the District's housing needs as well as contributes towards meeting unmet need arising from neighbouring Leicester City Council;
- Focuses growth to the edge of Leicester and our market towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth and to a lesser extent to our larger villages;
- Provides land for a diverse range of business sectors and sizes, including for strategic distribution through the expansion of Magna Park;
- Safeguards the distinct identity of our unique towns and villages; and
- Minimises carbon emissions, helps combat climate change and creates multifunctional green spaces for our communities.



## **NPPF Transitional Arrangements**

The Local Plan is submitted under the transitional arrangements set out in para 243(a) of the December 2024 NPPF. The Plan was published in accordance with Regulation 19 on 10 March 2025 and the housing requirement is at least 80% of the local housing need, meeting the requirements set out in para 234(a). As such, in accordance with para 235, the Local Plan will be examined under the December 2023 NPPF.

## **Submission Documents**

An electronic file transfer has been arranged to provide you with the submission documents. These include:

- S-NLP 1: Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041
- S-NLP 2: Policies Maps
- S-NLP 3: Harborough Proposed Submission Sustainability Appraisal Feb 2025
- S-NLP 4: Habitats Regulation Assessment Feb 2025
- S-NLP 5: Statement of Community Involvement June 2025
- S-NLP 6: Local Development Scheme (LDS) Nov 2025
- S-NLP 7: Equalities Impact Assessment Feb 2026
- S-NLP 8: Authority Monitoring Reports 2024/25
- S-NLP 9: Duty to Cooperate (Effective Cooperation) Statement of Compliance April 2026
- S-NLP 10: Regulation 22 Consultation Statement Feb 2026
- S-NLP 11: Database of Regulation 19 Representations
- S-NLP 12: PINS Pre-examination Checklist
- S-NLP 13: PINS Letter - matters to address before submission for examination Feb 2026
- S-NLP 14: HDC Response to PINS response to pre-examination checklist
- S-NLP 15: Schedule of Proposed Modifications to the Submission of the Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 and Policies Map April 2026

In addition, a full list of all the relevance documents including the evidence library, topic papers and full suite of Statements of Common Ground is appended to this letter and available on the examination website at: [|| Harborough District Council](#).

We would be pleased to provide the Inspector with a paper copy of any of these documents on request.

In addition, some further work is in train, which we would like to make the Inspectorate aware of at this stage. This will be completed and forwarded to the Inspectorate and added to the Examination website as soon as it is available. We trust this approach is acceptable and

pragmatic in order to avoid delaying submission of the Plan given the Government's clear desire for authorities to make swift progress on plan preparation.

- Final Statements of Common Ground with the site promoters of site allocation at Land North of Market Harborough to confirm delivery arrangements;
- Final Statement of Common Ground with Leicestershire County Council as Local Transport Authority;
- Final Statement of Common Ground with Historic England;
- Final Transport Topic Paper, which is being prepared collaboratively between the Council and Leicestershire County Council as Local Transport Authority to ensure a collaborative and coordinated approach.
- In addition there are two Statements of Common Ground for which the content has been agreed, but the signing process is ongoing with partners. This includes the Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Warehousing SoCG and a SoCG with site promoters of the site allocation at Land South of Gartree Road.

### **Pre-examination checklist**

Following submission of the pre-examination checklist and the response from the Planning Inspectorate, the Council has prepared a schedule of responses to the recommendations (S-NLP 14). This sets out how the Council has addressed each of the recommendations made and signposts any new or updated documents arising.

### **Request for Modifications**

In accordance with Section 20(7) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council formally requests that the appointed Inspector recommends any modifications to the Harborough Local Plan which the Inspector considers necessary to ensure legal compliance and soundness.

The Council has reviewed the representations received following publication of the Plan in accordance with Regulation 19. A schedule of Proposed Modifications has been prepared and endorsed by Council at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and is included in the submission documents. The proposed modifications have not been subject to public consultation at this stage and are included to aid the Inspector's consideration and discussion during the examination.

### **Programme Officer**

A Programme Officer has been appointed by the Council to handle all communications. The Programme Officer can be contacted as follows:

Email: [ian@localplanservices.co.uk](mailto:ian@localplanservices.co.uk)

Phone: 07723 009 166

Post:

Ian Kemp

Programme Officer  
PO Box 241  
Droitwich  
WR9 1DW.

### **Examination hearing venue**

The Council is able to make available the Council Chamber as a proposed venue for the examination hearings. This is an accessible public venue with webcast facilities. Separate office facilities for the sole use of the Inspector throughout the hearing sessions, together with refreshments and free car parking facilities will also be made available.

We look forward to working with the Planning Inspectorate to deliver a smooth and efficient examination. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

*David C. Atkinson*

David Atkinson  
Planning Director

Tess Nelson  
Head of Strategic and Local Planning

# Local Plan Examination Library

## Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 – Submission documents and evidence library

Documents submitted to the Secretary of State for examination and the Local Plan evidence library are available below.

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## Local Plan Evidence Library

### Document categories

- Submission Documents (S-NLP)
- Statements of Common Ground (SCG-NLP)
- Business and employment (EMP-NLP)
- Environment (EN-NLP)
- Green infrastructure and open space (GR-NLP)
- Heritage and community assets (HFC-NLP)
- Housing (HSG-NLP)
- Implementation and monitoring (IMP-NLP)
- Infrastructure (INF-NLP)
- Landscape (LAN-NLP)
- Local Plan preparation (PRE-NLP)
- People and places (PPL-NLP)
- Retailing (RTL-NLP)
- Topic Papers (TPC-NLP)
- Transport (TRP-NLP)

### Submission documents

- S-NLP 1: Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041
- S-NLP 2: Policies Maps
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### Statements of Common Ground

- SCG-NLP 1: Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing and Logistics Need Sept 2021
- SCG-NLP 2: South Leicestershire Local Plan Making Statement of Common Ground Nov 2021
- SCG-NLP 3: Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground June 2022
- SCG-NLP 4: Leicester & Leicestershire Duty to Cooperate Transitional Arrangements in Respect of Unmet Need Feb 2025
- SCG-NLP 5: Blaby District Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 6: Environment Agency and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 7: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 8: Historic England and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 9: Homes England and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 10: Melton Borough Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 11: Natural England and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 12: National Highways and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 13: NHS and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 14: North Northamptonshire Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 15: North West Leicestershire District Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 16: Rugby Borough Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025
- SCG-NLP 17: West Northamptonshire Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground March 2025

- SCG-NLP 18: Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published in December 2024, Dec 2025
- SCG-NLP 19: Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground May 2025
- SCG-NLP 20: Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground June 2025
- SCG-NLP 21: Charnwood Borough Council and Harborough District Council Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground July 2025
- SCG-NLP 22: Leicestershire County Council (Strategic Property Services) and Harborough District Council relating to the Lutterworth East SDA Feb 2026
- SCG-NLP 23: Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need March 2026
- SCG-NLP 24: Leicester City Council and Harborough District Statement of Common Ground relating to Leicester City Council's Regulation 19 representations April 2026
- SCG-NLP 25: National Highways and Harborough District Council: Harborough Local Plan Statement of Common Ground April 2026
- SCG-NLP 26: Land South of Gartree Road Statement of Common Ground

#### Business & Employment

- EMP-NLP 1: Warehousing and Logistics in Leicester and Leicestershire: Managing growth and change Study (amended March 2022)
- EMP-NLP 2: Leicester and Leicestershire HENA -Employment Distribution Paper June 2022
- EMP-NLP 3: Harborough District Economic Development Strategy (2024-2031) Dec 2024
- EMP-NLP 4: Strategic B8 Needs Sensitivity Report Dec 2024
- EMP-NLP 5: Harborough Local Housing & Employment Land Evidence Feb 2025
- EMP-NLP 6: Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Distribution Floorspace Needs Update and Apportionment Oct 2025

#### Environment

- EN-NLP 1: Air Quality Report Oct 2024
- EN-NLP 2: Climate Change and Renewable Energy Study Risk Assessment Sept 2024
- EN-NLP 3: Climate Change and Renewable Energy Study Policy Review Oct 2024
- EN-NLP 4: Harborough Renewable Energy Study Oct 2024
- EN-NLP 5: Joint Water Cycle Scoping Study Dec 2024
- EN-NLP 6: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 Oct 2024
- EN-NLP 7: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 Dec 2024
- EN-NLP 8: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 Addendum Aug 2025
- EN-NLP 9: Sequential and Exception Test Jan 2025

- EN-NLP 10: Sequential and Exception Test Addendum Sept 2025
- EN-NLP 11: Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy July 2025
- EN-NLP 12: Ecological Assessment of Proposed Site Allocations April 2026
- EN-NLP 13: Market Harborough North Odour Assessment March 2026

#### Green Infrastructure & Open Spaces

- GR-NLP 1: Open Spaces Strategy 2021
- GR-NLP 2: Provision for Open Space Sport and Recreation - Delivery Plan 2021
- GR-NLP 3: Playing Pitch Strategy 2022
- GR-NLP 4: Green and Blue Infrastructure Study Dec 2024

#### Heritage and Community Assets

- HFC-NLP 1: Heritage Analysis of Local Plan Sites Nov 2024
- HFC-NLP 2: Heritage Analysis of Local Plan Sites Addendum Feb 2026

#### Housing

- HSG-NLP 1: Leicester & Leicestershire SHELAA Joint Methodology Paper, 2019
- HSG-NLP 2: HENA Report June 2022
- HSG-NLP 3: HENA – Housing Distribution Paper June 2022
- HSG-NLP 4: SHELAA Assessment Update Feb 2024
- HSG-NLP 5: SHELAA Interactive Map 2024
- HSG-NLP 6: SHELAA Site Companion Guide Feb 2024
- HSG-NLP 7: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Assessment Nov 2024
- HSG-NLP 8: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Assessment Addendum – Additional Sites Aug 2025
- HSG-NLP 9: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Oct 2024
- HSG-NLP 10: 5 Year Housing Land Supply Statement Oct 2025
- HSG-NLP 11: Updated Housing Distribution Paper Nov 2025

#### Infrastructure

- INF-NLP 1: Infrastructure Delivery Plan Feb 2025
- INF-NLP 2: Infrastructure Delivery Plan March 2026
- INF-NLP 3: Local Plan Viability Assessment Jan 2025
- INF-NLP 4: Local Plan Viability Assessment Addendum – Market Conditions Feb 2026

#### Landscape

- LAN-NLP 1: Leicester and Leicestershire Green Wedge Review Joint Methodology June 2011
- LAN-NLP 2: Landscape Character Assessment Aug 2024
- LAN-NLP 3: Area of Separation Study Nov 2024
- LAN-NLP 4: Green Wedge Assessment Dec 2024
- LAN-NLP 5: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Dec 2024

### New Local Plan Preparation

- PRE-NLP 1: Statement of Community Involvement Feb 2020
- PRE-NLP 2: Issues and Options Consultation Document (Regulation 18) Jan 2024
- PRE-NLP 3: Regulation 18 Consultation Statement Nov 2024
- PRE-NLP 4: Local Plan Development Strategy Feb 2025
- PRE-NLP 5: Site Selection Methodology Feb 2025
- PRE-NLP 6: Site Selection Methodology Addendum – Assessment of Large Strategic Sites Nov 2025
- PRE-NLP 7: Health Impact Assessment Feb 2025  
Factual corrections to the published Health Impact Assessment have been made. These corrections are set out here.
- PRE-NLP : Regulation 19 Equalities Impact Assessment Feb 2025

### People & Places

- PPL-NLP 1: Settlement Hierarchy Assessment Jan 2025

### Retail

- RTL-NLP 1: Lutterworth Town Centre Masterplan (September 2021)
- RTL-NLP 2: Market Harborough Town Centre Masterplan (June 2022)
- RTL-NLP 3: Harborough Retail Town Centres Study Feb 2025

### Topic Papers

- TPC-NLP 1: Climate Change Topic Paper March 2026
- TPC-NLP 2: Heritage Topic Paper March 2026
- TPC-NLP 3: Flood Risk Topic Paper March 2026
- TPC-NLP 4: Open Space, Sport and Recreation and Local Green Space Topic Paper March 2026
- TPC-NLP 5: Employment and Retail Topic Paper March 2026
- TPC-NLP 6: Strategic Warehousing Topic Paper March 2026
- TPC-NLP 7: Housing Numbers Topic Paper
- TPC-NLP 8: Housing Mix and Type Topic Paper March 2026
- TPC-NLP 10: Infrastructure Topic Paper
- TPC-NLP 11: Green Wedges, Areas of Separation and Landscape Topic Paper March 2026

### Transport

- TRP-NLP 1: Leicestershire Local Transport Plan Nov 2024
- TRP-NLP 2: Harborough Strategic Transport Impact Assessment Jan 2025
- TRP-NLP 3: South Leicestershire Joint Transport Assessment Stage 1 Jan 2025
- TRP-NLP 4: Draft Joint Transport Evidence 2.8 – Identifying Mitigation and Costs April 2026
- TRP-NLP 5: South Leicestershire Joint Transport Evidence Stage 2 Sept 2025