DISTRICT OF HARBOROUGH

Cabinet

To the Cabinet on
Date of meeting: **27 July 2026**
Time: **6.30pm**

Venue: **Council Chamber, Council Offices,**
Adam and Eve Street,
Market Harborough LE16 7AG

Members of the public can access a live broadcast of the meeting from the Council website, and the meeting webpage. The meeting will also be open to the public.

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Members' Interests
3. Information Exchange from Portfolio Holders
4. Questions from the public or Members
5. Draft Public Minutes of the Cabinet meeting - 15 June 2026
6. Draft Minutes of the Cabinet Sub Committee Grants Meeting - 24 March 2026
7. Local Government Reorganisation (to follow)
8. Cabinet request of Council to agree an increase in resourcing to meet administration priorities
9. Contract for the councils Netcall (Jadu Creative Limited') Live Hosting Environment and Jadu Support for the digital content management system
10. Council Annual Delivery Plan and associated Key Activities for 2026-2027
11. Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF
12. Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing

13. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Progress Update

14. Strategic Landholding – Project Scope

15. Food Waste Service – Update on roll out date

16. Section 106 Grants Application

17. Any Urgent Business

JOHN RICHARDSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE
HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Contact:
democraticservices@harborough.gov.uk
Telephone: 01858 828282

Circulate to: Paul Dann - Member, Phil King – Vice Chair, Amanda Nunn – Member, David Page – Member, Rosita Page – Member, Michael Rickman – Member, Simon Whelband - Chairman

Any exempt items included on this agenda will be heard in private. They have been included on the agenda as no representations against hearing the items in private were received

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Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

Location: Council Chamber, The Symington Building, Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AG

Date: 15th June 2026 commencing at 5.30pm

Present:

Councillors: S. Whelband – Leader of the Council

P. King – Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance

P. Dann – Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services

A. Nunn – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing

D. Page – Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services

Mrs R. Page – Portfolio Holder for Planning

Ex-Officio:

Officers: J. Richardson – Chief Executive

L. Elliott – Deputy Chief Executive

C. Mason – Section 151 Officer & Director of Resources

D. Atkinson – Director of Planning

L. Mickleborough – Head of Democratic Services, Elections and Monitoring Officer

S. Taylor – Health and Wellbeing Manager

B. Nixon – Community Engagement Manager

C. Betts – Grants Officer

S. Morris – Grants Officer

E. Newman – Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

There were none.

2. Declarations of Members’ Interests

There were none.

3. Questions to Cabinet

There were none.

4. Draft Minutes of Cabinet on 11th May 2026

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet on 11th May 2026 were proposed by Councillor Whelband and seconded by Councillor King and therefore approved as a true and accurate record.

5. £1m Community Grant Applications (Year 2)

The report was introduced by the Leader.

The Community Engagement Manager explained that the Community Grant Fund is a council run £1 million capital grant scheme for Town and Parish Councils/Meetings and community organisations in the Harborough District. The report presented 16 applications to Cabinet for round three of year two of the fund.

The Community Engagement Manager confirmed that the application from PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Market Harborough (St Dionysius Church) for £46,296 for provision of 150 chairs instead of fixed pews had been deferred by the Market Harborough Special Expenses Advisory Panel, and therefore would not be considered by Cabinet at this meeting.

It was asked if the Harborough Athletics Club could receive additional funding due to the withdrawal of the application from PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Market Harborough (St Dionysius Church). It was confirmed that

Harborough Athletics Club would have to submit additional information to receive additional funding.

It was proposed by Councillor D Page and seconded by Councillor Rickman, and **agreed** that the following applications would receive full funding:

7224285 Harborough Athletics Club - £3,687.10 for purchase of new equipment

2135169 Home Start South Leicestershire - £7,873.20 for building improvements and purchase of tech for charity staff

7218648 Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council - £10,000 for a new, improved path at Rookery Park

Kibworth Tennis Club - £1,884 for the replacement of a grass bank with a 9.5m sleeper wall

7224613 Leire Parish Council - £8,350.35 for the installation of a MVAS speed sign, additional insultation in the village hall roof and purchase of a projector screen for village hall meetings.

This application was granted with the special condition that the grant money allotted for the speed sign will only be paid once officers have received a copy of the Highways Licence to install the MVAS.

7226617 Broughton Astley Heritage Society - £4,907.71 for the purchase of four heritage boards.

7226798 Lutterworth Tennis Club (Bitteswell) - £3,869.98 for widening the existing path from the car park to the tennis courts to provide safer access.

7224298 Dunton Bassett Parochial Church Council - £2,715.35 for the purchase of a range of equipment for All Saint’s Community Space including picnic tables, glassware, a fridge, star projector, battery-operated lamps and candles.

7235475 Dunton Bassett Parish Council - £5,097.79 for the replacement of four double fronted locking parish noticeboards for village notices and Parish Council information.

7241407 1st Foxton Scout Group - £999.87 for the purchase of additional camping equipment including a large air tent, event shelters, camping benches and folding tables.

7206213 Robert Monks Foxton Charity - £3,648 for the purchase of 110 lightweight replacement chairs for Foxton Village Hall

7241179 Thurnby Memorial Hall - £15,199.19 for the refurbishment of the kitchen

2146457 Husbands Bosworth Parish Council - £4,641 for the installation of acoustic ceiling panels within the Millenium Pavilion in Husbands Bosworth

7234758 St Nicholas Shangton Parochial Church Council - £4,920 for the upgrade of replacement of the heating system at St Nicholas Church

7219113 Tur Langton Village Hall - £4,500 for the installation of acoustic panels within Tur Langton Village Hall

Reasons for Decision

The applications were assessed against the requirements for funding, which are based on projects fulfilling the key criteria for the £1m Community Grant Fund, and applications having received a letter of support from the relevant Parish Council/Meeting and the views of the Ward Councillor.

Alternatives considered

It was considered that the applications receive part or no funding, but it was determined, that as the projects met the grant criteria, they were eligible to receive full funding.

6. Section 106 Grants Application

The report was introduced by the Leader.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager explained that Section 106 (S106) funding is used to develop or improve community facilities and various open spaces. The funding is secured through a planning obligation request which is an agreement by deed attached to the land that is subject of planning permission. Contributions secured through planning obligations are used to mitigate or compensate for what would otherwise be negative planning impacts of a proposed development. The S106 Senior Grants Officer considered the application 001 S106 R2 26-27 and recommended for funding in line with Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) compliance criteria, and criteria set out in the S106 grant guidance.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs R. Page and seconded by Councillor D. Page and **agreed** that application 001 S106 R2 26-27 East Mercia Rivers Trust (EMRT) for £36,117.46 for improvements to Welland River at Welland Park be approved.

Reasons for decision

The decision was made as the application had been fully assessed against the requirements for funding which are based on projects fulfilling the key S106 criteria, being CIL compliant and demonstrating project evidence of need.

Alternative options considered

It was considered that the application receive part or no funding, but it was determined, that as the projects met the grant criteria, they were eligible to receive full funding.

7. Recommendations from the Services and Communities and Corporate and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Panels

The report was introduced by Councillor Graves, in his role as Chair of the Services and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel. It was explained that the report presented the recommendations from both scrutiny Panels, and there were no further recommendations that hadn't already been reviewed and responded to by Cabinet. He further confirmed that both scrutiny panel chairs would be attending five meetings of Cabinet in 2026/27 to present their Panel's recommendations.

It was asked whether the Annual Scrutiny Report would continue in 2026/27. Councillor Graves confirmed that this would be continuing.

It was also asked how the Scrutiny Chairs will encourage all Members to take part in the scrutiny process. Councillor Graves confirmed that this is something he and Councillor Bateman (Chair of the Corporate and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Panel) would be working on throughout the year.

The report was **noted**.

8. Open Spaces Policy and Guidance

The report was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Planning. It was explained that the Open Spaces Policy and Guidance was brought to Cabinet following their agreement to adopt the Open Spaces Strategy Review on 11 May 2026. This would support the safeguarding and effective management of open spaces.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Mrs R. Page and seconded by Councillor Whelband and it was **agreed** that the Open Spaces Policy and Guidance 2026 be approved for use in Development Management and all other relevant council functions.

Reasons for decision

Adoption of the Open Spaces Policy and Guidance 2026 ensures that the Open Spaces Strategy can deliver the priorities of the Council through a new policy framework taking account of the needs of communities and the environment and is managed effectively by the most appropriate organisation.

Alternative options considered

It was considered to not adopt the Open Space Policy and Guidance, but this was considered inappropriate, as there would not be an adopted policy to secure provision of open space in Harborough District. New development sites would not be obliged to provide open space, or not be required to provide the correct amount of open space, either of which could lead to a lowering of standards and potential complaints from communities.

9. Street Cleansing – Cabinet request to Council to agree an increase in resourcing to meet the administration's priorities

The report was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, and it was explained that Council approved amendments to the 2026/27 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (2027/28 to 2028/29). The amendments included additional resourcing for street cleansing (an additional operative and a new road sweeper). It was determined that the budget and capital programme allocations are insufficient to meet the administration's priorities and therefore Cabinet needs to make a request to Council to increase the revenue allocation by £68.6k over the MTFS period and an increase in the capital programme of £135k.

The Cabinet heard from Councillor Knowles.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Mrs R. Page, and it was **agreed** that Cabinet request Council to approve the following resources to meet the administration's priorities for Street Cleansing:

1. An additional revenue allocation of £10k per annum to meet the costs of a driver.
2. An increase in the capital programme of £135k to finance the purchase of a large road sweeper.

Reasons for decision

The decision was taken to deliver the priorities of the Conservative administration and rectify the under-resources budget amendments approved by Council in February 2026.

Alternative options considered

The alternative considered was to maintain the current arrangement. It was determined that to do this would raise the potential for increased number of complaints due to reduced street cleansing service capacity, limited resilience if the existing road sweeper experiences a breakdown and longer wait times for residents to receive a street cleanse.

10. Any Urgent Business

Topical Information Exchange

The Leader gave Portfolio Holders the opportunity to give any updates on their portfolios.

Councillor D. Page gave an update on the Neighbourhood Services portfolio, including an update on the graffiti incident that had happened in Market Harborough Town Centre and an advertising campaign had been launched to tackle fly tipping,

There were no other updates, but Portfolio Holders agreed that they would bring formal updates to the next meeting.

11. Section 100A(4) – Local Government Act 1972

It was proposed by Councillor Whelband and seconded by Councillor King, and it was **agreed** that the following resolution be passed:

The next report is exempt not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, and therefore Public and Press will be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the consideration of the item.

12. Harborough District Commercial Services Ltd – Update and Future Considerations

The Cabinet agreed the recommendations as per the report.

The meeting ended at 18:09.

Minutes of the Cabinet Sub Committee Grants Meeting

Location: Council Chamber, The Symington Building, Adam & Eve Street Market Harborough, LE16 7AG.

Date: 24th March 2026 commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Knowles (Chair) – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy.

Galton – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning.

Woodiwiss – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Neighbourhood Services.

Officers: Rachael Felts – Head of Community Partnerships.

Steven Taylor – Health and Wellbeing Manager.

Katie Fox – Section 106 Grants Officer.

Claire Betts – Grants Officer.

Serretta Morris – Grants Officer.

Alec Swatton - Democratic Services Officer.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

   There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Declaration of Members' Interests**

   There were no declarations made.

3. **Draft Minutes of the Cabinet Sub Committee Grants Meeting – 25 November 2025**

   The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2025. It was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss, seconded by Councillor Galton, and it was **agreed** that the minutes be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. **Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Cabinet Sub Committee Grants Meeting – 19 January 2026**

   The Committee considered the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 19th January 2026. It was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss, seconded by Councillor Galton, and it was **agreed** that the minutes be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

5. **S106 Grant Applications**

The Health and Wellbeing Manager introduced the report, which outlined an application for Section 106 (S106) monies, used to improve or develop community facilities, with contributions secured through planning obligations related to the impact of proposed developments.

The report outlined one application, Application 001 S106 R6 25 26, from Harborough District Council Assets Team, which sought £59,658.54 from S106 monies to assist in the refurbishment and upgrade of Wadkins Way Pavillion, including work to its roof structure, structural repairs, new windows, drainage repairs, accessible toilets and refurbishment to changing room facilities.

The Head of Property spoke in favour of the application on behalf of the applicant (Harborough District Council), as did Councillors Galton, Woodiwiss and Knowles.

It was proposed by Councillor Galton, seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss, and it was **resolved** that:

1. Full funding of £59,658.54 be granted to fund upgrades to Wadkins Way Pavillion.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Communities and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Legal team, to enter into any necessary legal agreement to facilitate and properly document the legal obligations between the Council and any subsequent grant recipient of the funding.

Reasons for Decision

The decision was made as the application demonstrated that it met the requirements for funding, which are based on projects fulfilling the key S106 criteria, being Community Infrastructure Levy compliant and demonstrating project evidence of need.

Alternative Options Considered

Cabinet has agreed to a budget of £435k from Capital Funds for the project to be fully funded (Appendix C Cabinet Meeting 19 January 2026).

6. £1m Community Grant Applications

The Head of Community Partnerships introduced the report, which presented the recommendations on funding allocations for grants from the £1m Community Grant Fund, which aimed to strengthen working relationships between the Council and its parishes, town and communities, by enabling delivery of projects and initiatives at a local level across the district.

The Sub Committee was asked to review and consider the applications for grants as outlined in the report’s appendices, with a total of 31 applications contained in this report.

The Head of Community Partnerships noted that from year one, there remained an underspend of £69,040.75, which was agreed would be offered as an underspend grant to those organisations who were unable to or who did not previously apply for a grant. The report noted that there was a total of 11 applications being presented for the underspend round, with the applications being presented for this underspend round totalling £54,449.40

The Head of Community Partnerships noted that for year two, the £1m fund had been allocated between each town and parish, and that this was the second of three rounds, to be followed by an underspend round, over the period 2025-2026. The report noted that there was a total of 20 applications being presented for round two totalling £327,518.68, leaving £541,140.12 for the final two rounds of year two.

The following applications were considered by the Cabinet Sub Committee Grants.

Underspend Round Applications

1) 719373 – Speak out Project – Harborough District Children and Young People's Charity

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £4,641.60 for the purchase of new laptops and iPads to support the Harborough District Children and Young People's Chairty Speak Out Magazine Project.

The Grants Officer advised that, since the publication of the agenda, the Council had received new information from the applicant, indicating that there had been changes to the funding position of the organisation. In light of this, officers recommended that the application was deferred to the next suitable meeting to allow the applicant time to clarify their funding position. Officers further recommended that, in line with recent precedent, that this funding be ringfenced for the organisation and held subject to a future decision.

It was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the application from Harborough District Children and Young People's Charity be deferred to the next suitable meeting to allow the applicant time to confirm their funding position and that this funding is ringfenced, subject to a future decision.

2) 7184933 – Harborough Leisure Centre Junior Badminton Club

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £1,438.00 for the purchase of equipment to support the Harborough Leisure Centre Junior Badminton Club. The equipment the money would be used to purchase included the England Shuttle Stars equipment pack, a drone and a ruggedised tablet. Councillor Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that full funding of £1,438.00 be granted to Harborough Leisure Centre Junior Badminton Club.

3) <u>7204281 – Market Harborough Drama Society (Theatre)</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £2,232.00 for the purchase and installation of 2 interior digital screens to support the Market Harborough Drama Society (Theatre). Councillor Woodiwiss and Knowles spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £2,232.00 be granted to Market Harborough Drama Society.

4) <u>7169734 - Cotesbach Village Hall</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £5,000 for the installation of Solar Panels at Cotesbach Village Hall, in support of Cotesbach Village Hall. Councillor Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £5,000 be granted to Cotesbach Village Hall.

5) <u>7198668 - Glooston Village Hall</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £15,000 for the refurbishment and reconfiguration of existing toilet facilities, in support of Glooston Village Hall. The applicants and Councillors Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £15,000 be granted to Glooston Village Hall.

6) <u>7179283 - Frolesworth Parish Meeting</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £5,000 for the installation of entry gates at both ends of Frolesworth village, in support of Frolesworth Parish Meeting. The applicant and Councillors Knowles and Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £5,000 be granted to Frolesworth Parish Meeting, with the special terms and conditions as follows: Any grant awarded would not be paid until the Parish Council receive the Highways Licence to install the gates. They do not envisage any problems with this, as the recommendations for village gates to help traffic calming came from Highways.

Thereafter, the applicant thanked the Grants Officer for their assistance in preparing the application.

7) 7205962 - Bringhurst Dayton and Nevil Holt Parish Meeting

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £2,500 for the instillation of road markings (dragon's teeth) and 'SLOW 20MPH Ahead' signs at either end of the village of Drayton, in support of Bringhurst Drayton and Nevil Holt Parish Meeting. The applicant and Councillors Woodiwiss, Galton and Knowles spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £2,500 be granted to Bringhurst Drayton and Nevil Holt Parish Meeting.

8) 7207900 - St Peter's Parochial Church Council, Ashby Pava

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £1,375 for the installation of a bench to replace the unsafe bench which was removed, in support of St Peter's Parochial Church Council, Ashby Pava. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £1,375 be granted to St Peter's Parochial Church Council, Ashby Pava.

9) 7208254 - St Peter's Parochial Church Council, Ashby Pava

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £1,430 for the installation of 2 gazebos for church events, in support of St Peter's Parochial Church Council, Ashby Pava. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £1,430 be granted to St Peter's Parochial Church Council, Ashby Pava.

10) 7207699 - Stoughton Parish Council

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £5,000 for the installation of new toddler slides in the village playground at Gaulby Lane, in support of Stoughton Parish Council. The applicant and Councillors Galton and Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £5,000 be granted to Stoughton Parish Council.

11) <u>7207422 - Fleckney Duckpond Players</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £10,832.80 for the erection of an outside storage shed on Fleckney Recreation Ground for large stage properties and stage equipment, in support of Fleckney Duckpond Players. The applicant and Councillors Woodiwiss, Galton and Knowles spoke in support of the application.

Councillor Knowles noted that it was believed that this grant would be the 100th Grant Awarded under the £1m Community Grant Scheme.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £10,832.80 be granted to Fleckney Duckpond Players, with the special terms and conditions as follows: That appropriate planning permission be secured.

<u>Round 2, Year 2 Applications</u>

12) <u>7169100 - Market Harborough Methodist Church</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £49,747.90 for the purchase of new and additional chairs and the installation of new carpet tiles in support of the Market Harborough Methodist Church. The applicant and Councillor Woodiwiss and Knowles spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £49,747.90 be granted to Market Harborough Methodist Church.

13) <u>7208198 - Market Harborough Fixers CIC</u>

The Grants Officer of introduced the application, which sought £5,205.78 for the purchase of a third Portakabin to house a reception and training events in support of Market Harborough Fixers CIC.

The Grants Officer further noted that since the report was written, the Market Harborough Fixers CIC had secured additional external funding towards the 3rd portakabin and updated their plan to purchase a larger 3rd portakabin, instead of the original smaller one. The larger Cabin would fit in the larger space available too, and the owners of The Village, St Mary’s Road (the so-called ‘Ecovillage’), had given permission for the change to proceed. The Ecovillage would share the use of the larger portakabin, for events as the larger cabin be portioned to accommodate the needs of both the Fixers and the Ecovillage.

The Grants Officer recommended that the following additional special condition be agreed too: That the grant will only be paid on receipt of the required 2 additional quotes, or evidence of best endeavours, for the larger cabin (as the total cost was now over £5k).

The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £5,205.78 be granted to Market Harborough Fixers CIC, with the special terms and conditions as follows: that the grant will only be paid on receipt of the required 2 additional quotes, or evidence of best endeavours, for the larger cabin (as the total cost is now over £5k).

14) 7208092 - Hart of Fleckney Bowls Club

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £8,535 for the installation of new flooring, emergency lighting and new hand dryers at the bowls club, in support of the Hart of Fleckney Bowls Club. Councillors Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £8,535 be granted to the Hart of Fleckney Bowls Club.

15) 7206294 - 1st Flekney Scout Group

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £13,400 for the installation of solar panels and better storage, in support of the 1st Fleckney Scout Group. The applicant and Councillors Woodiwiss, Galton and Knowles spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £13,400 be granted to the 1st Fleckney Scout Group.

16) 7186083 - Claybrooke Village Hall

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £9,000 for improvements to the Village Hall to address damp, in support of Claybrooke Village Hall. Councillors Galton and Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £9,000 be granted to Claybrooke Village Hall.

17) 7190302 - Peatling Parva Village Hall

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £4,938.92 for the installation of UPVC fascias and doors at the village hall, in support of Peatling Parva Village Hall. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Galton and Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £4,938.92 be granted to Peatling Parva Village Hall.

Thereafter, the applicant thanked the Grants Officer for their assistance in preparing the application.

18) 7188637 - Broughton Astley Sea Cadets

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £48,580 for the purchase of a new mini-bus, in support of Broughton Astley Sea Cadets. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £48,580 be granted to Broughton Astley Sea Cadets.

19) 7190043 - Ashby Magna Parish Council

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £4,276.67 for the installation of 3 lamppost LED lights, plus additional street lighting, in support of Ashby Magna Parish Council. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £4,276.67 be granted to Ashby Magna Parish Council.

Thereafter, the applicant thanked the Grants Officer for their assistance in preparing the application.

20) 7197668 - Great Glen Village Hall

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £10,000 for new curtains for the main hall windows and stage area, in support of Great Glen

Village Hall. Councillors Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £10,000 be granted to Great Glen Village Hall.

21) 7202627 - Newton Harcourt Reading Room

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £2,644.89 for the installation of modern kitchen appliances and additional external lighting, in support of Newton Harcourt Reading Room. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £2,644.89 be granted to Newton Harcourt Reading Room.

Thereafter, the applicant thanked the Grants Officer for their assistance in preparing the application.

22) 7189729 - The Coplow Centre

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £16,808.18 to build a storage extension onto the side of the main hall to provide additional storage, in support of the Coplow Centre. The applicants and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £16,808.18 be granted to the Coplow Centre, with the special terms and conditions as follows: 1) Full funding of the project – the applicant will also apply for S106 funding; 2) That appropriate planning permission be secured.

Thereafter, the applicant thanked the Grants Officer for their assistance in preparing the application.

23) 7086989 - Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £13,308.88 for the installation of new fencing at Warwick Park Multi Use, in support of Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council. Councillors Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £13,308.88 be granted to the Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council.

24)<u>7197950 - Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £13,762.26 for the installation of new swings and surfacing at Jubilee Green, in support of Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council. Councillors Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £13,762.26 be granted to the Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council.

25)<u>7204242 - Kibworth Tennis Club</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £4,974 for the installation of steel steps, exterior lighting above the main entrance to the club and the creation of a tarmac area, in support of Kibworth Tennis Club. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £4,974 be granted to the Kibworth Tennis Club.

Thereafter, the applicant thanked the Grants Officer for their assistance in preparing the application.

26)<u>7207119 - The Well, Kibworth</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £9,071 for the upgrading of shop frontages and main entrance access to allow level access and improve security, in support of The Well, Kibworth. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Galton and Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £9,071 be granted to the Well, Kibworth.

Thereafter, the applicant thanked the Grants Officer for their assistance in preparing the application.

27)<u>7200091 - Lutterworth Town Council</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £29,350 for the purchase and installation of new security fence and gate at the Coventry Road Allotments site in Lutterworth l. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Lutterworth spoke on behalf of the applicant (Lutterworth Town Council) in support of the application. Councillors Knowles, Galton and Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £29,350 be granted to Lutterworth Town Council.

28) 7205211 - Tugby and Keythorpe Parish Council

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £4,467 for the creation of a Community Orchard with a wildflower meadow, and the restoration of a neglected verge and the installation of troughs for bulb planting, in support of Tugby and Keythorpe Parish Council. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £4,467 be granted to Tugby and Keythorpe Parish Council.

29) 7200420 - Lutterworth Masonic Association

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £72,000 for the comprehensive refurbishment of fire safety systems at the Wycliffe Rooms, Lutterworth, in support of Lutterworth Masonic Association. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Woodiwiss and Galton spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £72,000 be granted to Lutterworth Masonic Association, with the special terms and conditions as follows: Evidence of best endeavours to secure comparable quotes for the ceiling (void protection) to demonstrate value for money.

Thereafter, the applicant thanked the Grants Officer for their assistance in preparing the application.

30) 7207984 - 1st Kilworth Scouts (Husbands Bosworth Parish)

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £4,045 for the upgrading of external front door and upgrading of windows in support of the 1st Kilworth Scout Group (Husbands Bosworth Parish). The applicant and Councillors Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Woodiwiss and seconded by Councillor Galton and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £4,045 be granted to the 1st Kilworth Scout Group (Husbands Bosworth Parish), with the special terms and conditions as follows: Any grant awarded would only be paid once a signed, agreed Heads of Terms has been received for the Scouts' renewal of their land lease. The Scouts own the Scout Hut but have leased the land from the Parish Council since 1986. The lease is due for renewal on 01/09/2026 and the Parish Council have confirmed they see no reason why they would not be renewing this for another 10 years and fully support this project.

31) <u>7201371 - North Kilworth Bowls Club</u>

The Grants Officer introduced the application, which sought £3,401.20 for the purchase of a glass washer and new carpet for the clubhouse, in support of North Kilworth Bowls Club. The applicant and Councillors Knowles, Galton and Woodiwiss spoke in support of the application.

The application was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that the full funding of £3,401.20 be granted to North Kilworth Bowls Club.

Reasons for Decision

The decision was made as the applications have demonstrated they met the requirements for funding which are based on projects fulfilling the key criteria for the £1m Community Grant Fund. This includes letters of support from the relevant parish council/meeting and include the views of a ward councillor.

Alternative Options Considered

The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the applications and make the decision to grant full, part or no funding.

7. Councillors Ward Improvement Grant

The Head of Community Partnerships introduced the report, which sought to provide an update on the grants awarded under the Councillors Ward Improvement Grant, which provided all District Councillors with £5,000 to support projects in their wards. The grant criteria and process were agreed at Cabinet on 25 March 2025, and it was agreed that any grants awarded would be reported for information at Cabinet Sub-Committee Grants.

The Head of Community Partnerships also noted the inclusion of an additional technical recommendation within the report, with regards to funds which had not been spent or committed under the Ward Improvement Grant.

The Head of Community Partnership read out the new recommendation which was as follows:

That the Cabinet-Sub Committee Grants agree that, for any funds not spent or committed by 31 March 2026, Councillors will have until 30 April 2026 to notify officers of any additional proposed projects or funding. These proposals will then be considered by the Leader in accordance with the powers identified in Section 4.3 of the report.

Thereafter, Councillors Galton, Woodiwiss and Knowles spoke in favour of Councillor Ward Improvement Grant scheme. Members noted that some ward grants had not been allocated yet, and Officers agreed to work with the relevant ward Councillor to ensure that they did not miss out.

Thereafter, it was proposed by Councillor Galton and seconded by Councillor Woodiwiss and it was **agreed** that:

1. That Cabinet-Sub Committee Grants agree that, for any funds not spent or committed by 31 March 2026, Councillors will have until 30 April 2026 to notify Officers of any additional proposed projects or funding. These proposals will then be considered by the Leader in accordance with the powers identified in Section 4.3 of the report.
2. Note the report and grants awarded under the Councillors Ward Improvements Grant scheme to 2 March 2026.

Reasons for Decision

The decision allows unspent or uncommitted funds to be carried forward, ensuring more time to fully utilise the grant funding and to inform Cabinet Sub Committee Grants about Councillors' Ward Improvement Grants awarded to date.

Alternative Options Considered

Not Applicable.

8. Any Urgent Business

There was no urgent business considered.

The meeting ended at 09.11pm.

Harborough District Council - Decisions taken by the Cabinet Sub Committee Grants on 24th March 2026

Report	**Decision**	**Summary of Reasons** Alternative options considered will be as written in the report, unless otherwise stated here.
Section 106 Grants Applications	Cabinet Sub Committee Grants agreed to: 1. Fully fund application 001 S106 R4-6 25-26 from HDC Assets for £59,658.54 to fund upgrades to Wadkins Way Pavillion. 2. Delegate authority to the Director of Communities and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Legal team, to enter into any necessary legal agreement to facilitate and properly document the legal obligations between the Council and any subsequent grant recipient of the funding.	The recommendations put forward to Cabinet Sub-Committee Grants have been assessed against the requirements for funding which are based on projects fulfilling the key S106 criteria, being CIL compliant and demonstrating project evidence of need.
£1m Community Grant Applications	Cabinet Sub Committee Grants agreed to defer to the next suitable meeting, and in line with precent, ring-fence funding for the following projects, subject to a future decision: <u>Underspend Round Applications</u> 1. Speak out Project – Harborough District Children and Young Peoples Charity – £4,641.60 for the purchase of new laptops and iPads.	The recommendations put forward to the Cabinet Sub-Committee Grants have been assessed against the requirements for funding which are based on projects fulfilling the key criteria for the £1m Community Grant Fund. This includes letters of support from the relevant parish council/meeting and include the views of a ward councillor. Overall, there are 11 applications to be decided upon for the year one underspend pot and 20 applications to be decided upon for round two, year two.

	Cabinet Sub Committee Grants agreed to fully fund the following projects: <u>Underspend Round Applications</u> 1. Harborough Leisure Centre Junior Badminton Club - £1,438 for purchase of Equipment, a drone and a ruggedised tablet. 2. Market Harborough Drama Society - £2,232 for the purchase and installation of 2 interior digital screens. 3. Cotesbach Village Hall - £5,000 for the installation of Solar Panels at the Village Hall. 4. Gobston Village Hall - £15,000 for the refurbishment and reconfiguration of existing toilet facilities. 5. Frolesworth Parish Meeting - £5,000 for installation of entry gates at both ends of the village, with the special terms and conditions as follows: Any grant awarded would not be paid until the Parish Council receive the Highways Licence to instal the gates.	

	6. Bringhurst Dayton and Nevil Holt Parish Meeting - £2,500 to install road markings (dragon's teeth) and SLOW 20MPH signs at either end of the village of Drayton. 7. St Peter's Parochial Church Council, Ashby Pava - £1,375 for the purchase and installation of a bench. 8. St Peter's Parochial Church Council, Ashby Pava - £1,430 for the installation of 2 gazebos. 9. Stoughton Parish Council - £5,000 for the installation of a new toddler slide in village playground at Gaulby Lane. 10. Fleckney Duckpond Players - £10,832.80 for the erection of an outside storage shed on Fleckney Recreation Ground for large stage properties and stage equipment, with the special terms and conditions as follows: That appropriate planning permission be secured. <u>Round 2, Year 2 Applications</u> 11. Market Harborough Methodist Church - £49,747.90 for the purchase of new	

	and additional chairs/installation of new carpet tiles. 12. Market Harborough Fixers CIC - £5,205.78 for the purchase of a third Portakabin to house a reception and training events, with the special condition that the grant will only be paid on receipt of the required 2 additional quotes, or evidence of best endeavours, for the larger cabin (as the total cost is now over £5k). 13. Hart of Fleckney Bowls Club - £8,535 for the installation of new emergency flooring, emergency lighting and new hand dryers at the bowls club. 14. 1st Flekney Scut Group - £13,400 for the installation of solar panels and battery storage. 15. Claybrooke Village Hall - £9,000 for improvements to Village Hall to address damp. 16. Peatling Parva Village Hall - £4,938.92 for the installation of UPVC fascias and doors at the village hall.	

	17. Broughton Astley Sea Cadets - £48,580 – for the purchase of new mini-bus. 18. Ashby Magna Parish Council - £4,276.67 for the installation of 3 lamppost LED lights, plus new street lighting. 19. Great Glen Village Hall - £10,000 for new curtains for main hall windows and for the stage area. 20. Newton Harcourt Reading Room - £2,644.89 for the installation of modern kitchen appliances and the addition of external lighting. 21. The Coplow Centre - £16,808.18 to build a storage extension onto the side of the main hall, with the special terms and conditions as follows: 1) Full funding of the project – the applicant will also apply for S106 funding; 2) That appropriate planning permission be secured. 22. Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council - £13,308.88 for the installation of new fencing at Warwick Park.	

	23. Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council - £13,762.26 for the installation of new swings and surfacing at Jubilee Greens. 24. Kibworth Tennis Club - £4,974 for the installation of steel steps, exterior light and creation of tarmac area. 25. The Well, Kibworth - £9,071 for the upgrading of frontage and main entrance access. 26. Lutterworth Town Council - £29,350 for the purchase and installation of new security fence and gate. 27. Tugby and Keythorpe Parish Council - £4,467 for the creation of a Community Orchard with wildflower meadow, restoration of a neglected verge and bulb planting. 28. Lutterworth Masonic Association - £72,000 for the comprehensive refurbishment of fire safety systems at the Wycliffee Rooms, Lutterworth, with the special terms and conditions as follows: Evidence of best endeavours to secure comparable quotes for the ceiling (void protection) to demonstrate value for money.	

	29. 1st Kilworth Scouts (Husbands Bosworth Parish) - £4,045 for the upgrading of external front door and windows, with the special terms and conditions as follows: Any grant awarded would only be paid once a signed, agreed Heads of Terms has been received for the Scouts' renewal of their land lease. 30. North Kilworth Bowls Club - £3,401.20 for the purchase of a glass washer and carpet.	
Councillors' Ward Improvement Grants Update	Cabinet Sub Committee Grants agreed to: 1. That Cabinet Sub-Committee Grants agreed that, for any funds not spent or committed by 31 March 2026, Councillors will have until 30 April 2026 to notify officers of any additional proposed projects or funding. The proposals will then be considered by the Leader in accordance with the powers identified in Section 4.3 of the report. 2. Note the report and grants awarded under the Councillors Ward Improvements Grant scheme to 2 March 2026.	To inform Cabinet Sub Committee Grants about Councillors' Ward Improvement Grants awarded to date.

Harborough District Council - Decisions taken by the Cabinet Sub Committee Grants on 24th March 2026

Note: this decision list is for guidance only. The text of the minutes, which may be different is definitive.

Harborough District Council
Cabinet

27 July 2026

Title:	Cabinet request of Council to agree an increase in resourcing to meet administration priorities
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	Yes
Subject to Call In:	No
Report Author:	Clive Mason; Director of Resources (& S.151 Officer)
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Philip King; Portfolio Holder for Resources
Appendices:	**Appendix 1**: Comments from Corporate & Performance Overview & Scrutiny Panel, 23 July 2026 (to follow)

Summary

At the time of drafting this report, the Corporate & Performance Overview & Scrutiny Panel (the Panel) to be held on the 23 July 2026 would not have met. However, it is expected that the Panel will consider and comment accordingly on Cabinets 7 initiatives to enable Cabinet, at their meeting on the 27 July 2026, to reflect in time for the Extraordinary Council meeting later that evening.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is asked to:

1. Consider the comments received from Corporate & Performance Overview & Scrutiny Panel (held on the 23 July 2026) in respect of the 7 initiatives
   i. Open Space Strategy: Revenue resource for a Green and Open Spaces Compliance Officer
   ii. Revenue resource of £10k per annum to recruit a driver for the new Mechanical Road Sweeper
   iii. Revenue resource totalling £179k over three-years to finance the Voluntary Wind-Up of Harborough District Council Services Ltd (HDCS)
   iv. Local Economic Development/Regeneration Initiative (LEDRI)– £250k additional resource for Kibworth

v. Land Transfer Project: Revenue resource totalling £310k to finance an extension to the Surveyor/Valuer Fixed Term Contract (£50k) & to meet Council and Town/Parish Legal Costs (£260k)

vi. Revenue resource totalling £500k to provide a Rural Grants Scheme

vii. Capital resource of £1m to deliver a Heritage Grants Scheme and revenue resource of £50k to support delivery of the scheme

2. Make final recommendations to Council scheduled for 6:30pm, 27 July 2026.

Reasons for Recommendations

- At the Council meeting held on the 6 July 2026, a report relating to "Cabinet request of Council to agree an increase in resourcing to meet administration priorities" was deferred to the 23 July 2026 Corporate & Performance Overview & Scrutiny Panel. This deferment will enable the Panel to consider and comment on each of Cabinets 7 initiatives that will then enable Cabinet to consider their comments prior to consideration by Council.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the Corporate & Performance Overview & Scrutiny Panel (the Panel) held on the 23 July 2026 prior to Cabinet presenting the report to Council on the 27 July 2026.

2. Background

2.1. On the 6 July 2026 Council considered a report by Cabinet requesting Council to agree an increase in resourcing[1]. This report was deferred to the Corporate & Performance Overview & Scrutiny Panel to be held on the 23 July 2026. The intention was for the Panel meeting to consider the report (Cabinets 7 initiatives) and pass comments through to the Cabinet scheduled for the 27 July 2026. Cabinet will reflect on Panels comments and recommendation its initiatives to an Extraordinary meeting of Council later that evening.

2.2 The scrutiny report includes details of the 7 initiatives to provide members with information and assurance regarding Cabinet's proposals. It will ultimately be for Cabinet, or officers delegated through the scheme of delegation, to determine final schemes and proposals if Council agrees to the budget amendments. Cabinet and officers will need to give due consideration to any scrutiny recommendations on the initiatives in reaching a decision.

[1] Council, 6 July 2026, Agenda Item 11

3. Details

3.1 The 7 initiatives considered by Panel are shown below; and the Scrutiny report and detailed appendices) are available on the Councils website for the Panel meeting scheduled for the 23 July 2026.

i. Open Space Strategy: Revenue resource for a Green and Open Spaces Compliance Officer (£66k per annum)
ii. Revenue resource of £10k per annum to recruit a drive for the new Mechanical Road Sweeper
iii. Revenue resource totalling £179k over three-years to finance the Voluntary Wind-Up of Harborough District Council Services Ltd (HDCS)
iv. Local Economic Development/Regeneration Initiative (LEDRI)– £250k additional resource for Kibworth
v. Land Transfer Project: Revenue resource totalling £310k to finance an extension to the Surveyor/Valuer Fixed Term Contract (£50k) & to meet Council and Town/Parish Legal Costs (£260k)
vi. Revenue resource totalling £500k to provide a Rural Grants Scheme
vii. Capital resource of £1m to deliver a Heritage Grants Scheme and revenue resource of £50k to support delivery of the scheme

3.2 The comments of Panel were not available at the time of publication of this report but will be appended to this report when compiled (as Appendix 1) and circulated to all members in time for consideration by Cabinet.

4. Implications of Decisions

Financial

4.1 In February 2026 Council approved, following an opposition amendment, a revenue 2026/27 budget of £25.4m and a capital programme of £14.6m. Since the Conservative Group have become the administration, they have reviewed their priorities and have recommended to Council a series of revenue budget and capital programme amendments. In respect of the impact over the 3-years of the MTFS and capital programme:

- **Revenue**, the additional resources needed to meet these amendments totals £1.6m over the life of the asset and are summarised in the table below. For 2026/27 the updated budget would be £26.7m.
- **Revenue Reserves**, the impact is a reduction in balances to £10.6m (reduction of 13.3%) by March 2029 (2028/29).
- **Capital**, the Capital Programme approved by Council in February 2026, following the administrations amendments was £14.58m, with the additional £1m (Heritage Grants) this would increase to £15.58m (£14.58m+£1m heritage grants+£50k @ 5% contingency).

4.2 **Local Government Review**, the potential use of further revenue and capital resources will reduce the resources that will be available to any subsequent council following vesting day (expected to be 1 April 2028).

Conservative Administrations Request for Additional Resources										
Portfolio	**Service**	**Initiative**	**Paragraph Reference**	**Appendix**	**Detail**	**2026/27 £000**	**2027/28 £000**	**2028/29 £000**	**Total £000**	**£000**
Planning	Strategic Planning	Open Space Strategy	3.2	1	Appointment of a Green and Open Spaces Compliance Officer (1)	66	66	66	198	**198**
		Heritage Grant Scheme	3.8	7	Approval for a Planning Heritage Grants Administrator (2)	50	0	0	50	**150**
					Support for Heritage Assets across the district (MRP) (3)	0	50	50	100	
Neighbourhoods	Street Cleansing	Driver for Mechanical Street Sweeper	3.3	2	Environment Services Contractor cost	10	10	10		**30**
Finance	Commercial Services: HDCS Ltd	Voluntary Wind-Up	3.4	3	Procurement of specialist advice	60	0	0	60	**179**
					Liquidity Support (4)	59	39	21	119	
	Assets	Land Transfer to Town / Parish Councils	3.6	5	Surveyor/Valuer fixed contract extension	50	0	0	50	**310**
					Legal costs to support effective land transfer	260	0	0	260	
Business & Tourism	Economic Development	Local Economic Development / Regeneration Initiative	3.5	4	Additional distribution to locality (Kibworth)	250	0	0		**250**
Strategy	Communities & Wellbeing	Rural Grant Scheme	3.7	6	Support to Rural Communities	500	0	0		**500**
Total						**1,305**	**165**	**147**		**1,617**

NB

(1) Permanent, 1.0 FTE, costs include oncosts

(2) Fixed Term Contact post, maximum cost of £50k.

(3) Heritage Grants, awarded 2026/27; no MRP charge until year after acquisition-charge based on an economic life of 20 years (£1m / 20 years).

(4) Liquidity Support is the Council contribution to provide cash flow support for HDCS Ltd and the cost of carry.

4.3 There are some potential future additional requests for resources that members need to be cognisant of:

4.3.1 **New Environmental Services Contract: Potential Additional Fleet**; to recap, the Council:

i. is currently procuring its Environmental Services Contract (Waste, Streets & Grounds), with a go-live date of April 2027, and

ii. has been acquiring a new vehicle fleet to enable the delivery of the Environmental Services Contract; including Food Waste.

However, members need to be aware that the bidders (3.6 i] are indicating that there may be a need to acquire several additional Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs). This is due to the different collection methods proposed by each bidder and increased property numbers due to housing growth. Officers will ensure that any further vehicle requirements are robustly assessed and only accepted if there is an absolute necessity.

This “need” will not be known until later in July 2026 when the final tenders have been submitted and assessed, but if the need is confirmed then members should expect to receive a report to Septembers Council requesting further financial resource to enable timely delivery of the additional fleet requirement.

4.3.2 **Local Government Review**; when the Council approved the 2026/27 Budget (& MTFS) it included a £1m Local Government Review[2] (LGR) earmarked reserves allocation. The reserve was established to meet expenditure related to LGR activity. It is expected that work will accelerate after the expected July announcement and this reserve will be used in line with the Reserves Strategy[3] and other constitutionally permitted decision-making processes. If further resourcing is required, appropriate approvals will be sought.

4.3.3 **Emerging Priorities**; when the Conservative Group became the administration it was after the approval of the 2026/27 Budget & MTFS. It is possible that as time progresses that the administration identifies further priorities.

Legal

4.4 This report seeks approval of amendments to the Council’s budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy which was approved by Council in February 2026. Following a change in administration of the Council, a subsequent review of priorities and identification of additional capital and revenue expenditure required to deliver those priorities.

4.5 The Council is required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set a lawful and balanced budget. Where proposed changes to expenditure arise, the Council must ensure that sufficient resources are available and that any amendments maintain a balanced financial position.

4.6 Approval of the budget, including any amendments, is a function reserved to full Council. Any changes must be made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Rules set out in Part 4 Section 3 of the Constitution.

Environmental Implications

4.7 The various initiatives noted within this report will either support or enhance the districts environment; such as enhancing the physical environment in respect of buildings and

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[2] Council, 23 February 2026, Agenda Item 7, Appendix 1, Annex 2.
[3] Council, 23 February 2026, Agenda Item 7, Appendix 6.

locality cleanliness, as well as helping communities to deliver local environmental priorities.

Risk Management

4.8 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report. However, indirectly many of the individual requests for financial resources are based on as up to date information as is currently available. If the projects are not delivered in a timely manner there is a risk that cost may increase, so where possible this risk is built into the cost estimate

Equalities Impact

4.9 All projects mentioned within this report, except the Heritage and Rural Grant Schemes, have had equality implications considered as part of their respective report development and sign off. No further equality impacts have been identified as part of this report.

4.10 The Heritage Grant Scheme is being considered to ensure that local heritage assets are not lost. Historic England research shows that Heritage enhances our sense of belonging to places or communities and helps us to understand and express who we are. It influences the way people see and feel about places and brings people together, building trust and a sense of belonging. Heritage has been shown to also play a part in mental and physical health (Historic England - Research Evidence for the Social Impact of Heritage 2 July 2025). For these reasons this scheme is considered to bring about positive equality impacts for residents of the district.

4.11 The Rural Grant Scheme is being considered to ensure that funding is allocated fairly across the district to ensure that all communities can benefit. Grant funding will be allocated through a process which considers equality impacts and therefore will have a positive impact for residents.

4.12 Additional funding for the priorities identified within this report are to be met through the use of reserves which are currently unallocated. Therefore, there are no foreseeable negative impacts for the community at this time, as future funding will be allocated by the Council through decisions which will pay due regard to the Council's equality duty.

Data Protection

4.13 There are no direct data protection implications arising from this report.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 The change in administration, and their respective priorities, will require additional resource. This report facilitates that. Some projects only have one option i.e. to deliver a wider, more balanced, street cleansing service in line with the administrations priorities requires the right type of human resource. In respect of the various grants, the options around terms and conditions (T&C) illustrated in the report give a general idea, as the schemes develop the T&C's may develop further. And for other projects, the options have been discussed in other reports.

6. Background papers; information supplied to the Council's budget and capital programme and various other Council reports.

Harborough District Council
Cabinet
July 27 2026

Title:	Contract for the councils Netcall (Jadu Creative Limited') Live Hosting Environment and Jadu Support for the digital content management system
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	Yes
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Report Author:	Kay Aitken, Business Planning and Performance Manager K.Aitken@Harborough.gov.uk Rob Chew, Head of ICT and Transformation R.Chew@Harborough.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Whelband, Portfolio Holder for Strategy
Appendices:	None

Summary

Jadu is a software platform used mainly by councils and other public sector organisations to deliver digital services online. For Harborough District Council, Jadu is the supplier behind the public website and core digital customer platform. In practice, this means HDC uses Jadu for a range of digital services, not just its website.

In December 2025 Netcall, with whom the council has a contract to provide "Liberty Create" which is for online services, acquired Jadu. The current contract with Jadu was procured on an annual basis and commenced over 10 years ago.

The contract with Jadu will end on 7th August 2026 and a new contract is required to ensure continuity of service for customers who use the website services.

Continuation with the current supplier will ensure continuity of service, avoidance of time and resource for set-up costs of a new system and time and resource to retrain the Digital services team to use a new system.

Due to the cost of a 36 month contract being over the council's £50k threshold, the decision to award this contract must be made by Cabinet in line with the council's constitution.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to :

1. Approve the direct award by exemption via G-Cloud 14 Framework of a new 36 month contract with the existing supplier of the digital content management system 'Jadu Creative Limited' to run until August 2029 with an additional option of a 1 year extension.

2. Delegate to the Head of ICT and Transformation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, to agree the contract.

Reasons for Recommendations

The website software is critical to the operation of the Online services provided through Netcall, which supports the operation of frontline council services by enabling residents to report issues, pay for services (council tax, garden waste), request information about council services online and out of hours.

The website has over 100,000 visitors every month – there is a reputational and operational risk should the website be disrupted.

A direct award by exemption from a G cloud 14 Framework to the current supplier for 36 months will ensure continuity of service, avoidance of time and resource for set-up costs of a new system and time and resource to retrain the Digital services team to use a new system.

In line with Local Government Reorganisation across Leicestershire, district councils are being encouraged to carry forward ICT contracts with as much remaining term as possible to help future-proof services during the transition.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the proposed direct award under exemption from a G-Cloud 14 framework for a 36-month contract with the existing supplier of the councils website system until 8 August 2029 with digital content management system 'Jadu Creative Limited',

2. Background

2.1.1 The council's website services operate on cloud-based software provided by Jadu, which was acquired by Netcall in December 2025.

2.1.2 Jadu is a digital platform to deliver resident-facing services across all internal services including:

- Website and content management
- Online forms and applications (such as Apply/report & Pay)
- Customer self service, such as missed bins
- Connects front-end forms to back-office systems
- Payments and transactions
- Customer experience

2.2 At Harborough District Council, Jadu, Netcall and Talkdesk support different stages of the customer journey.

The table below outlines this;

	Product	**Description**	**Example(s)**
Jadu Creative Limited	Cloud Hosting and Platform Management for Jadu	The platform that hosts the council website and tools that allow officers to update and manage its content.	The website homepage and pages containing general information including latest updates.
Netcall PLC	Liberty Create	The platform that hosts any forms and the resultant workflows to council service areas.	A resident wishing to report a missed bin fills in the form on the website, this case is then given to the Environmental Services team to manage and sent to our 3rd party's system for checking.
Talkdesk U.K. Ltd	CX Cloud™ Government Edition	Customer Services contact centre software.	Includes the telephone system that residents use to contact Customer Services as well as the live chat feature on the 'Contact Us' page of the website.

2.3 As such Jadu captures the request, Netcall processes it, and Talkdesk handles conversations around it. The three systems work together to provide a customer experience.

2.4 In March 2026 Cabinet agreed to the direct award a new contract for the Talkdesk system for 27 months starting from May 2026. It would be prudent to therefore continue to deliver on online services via Jadu for the exiting term of Harborough District council.

2.5 The current contract with Jadu commenced over 10 years. This is an annual contract. The current contract will end on 8th August 2026. Therefore, it is now necessary to reach an agreement on the direct award of a new contract to the current supplier to allow time for review of contract terms and signing of the contract to ensure continuation of service.

2.6 The emerging direction of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) will bring the possibility of significant strategic and operational change for district councils. It is sensible to take additional time to fully understand the implications of LGR, assess future structures and needs of customers of the new unitary council.

2.7 Procurement of a new system would require a lengthy Procurement Framework process which would take the council beyond the end of the current contract. Set-up costs and resource implications for retraining staff on a new system are also best avoided at this time of uncertainty regarding LGR. The contract term will allow time to maintain current systems until the new authority is able to implement its own systems and structures.

2.8 For the reasons set out directly above it makes sense to continue with the current supplier at this time.

3. Details

3.1 It is proposed that a direct award from a G14 framework contract by exemption is made to the current supplier, Netcall.

3.2 The cost of a 36-month contract with Jadu/Netcall will be £95,820.

3.3 The proposed direct award from the G14 framework of a new contract to the existing supplier by exemption will:

- Ensure continuity of service delivery until LGR and Devolution arrangements are clarified
- Avoid costly set up and integration costs of a new system
- Avoid costly training of the customer services team on a new system
- Avoid the potential loss of technology that improves service delivery (eg AI-driven notetaking functionality) and the loss of transformation in ways of working that has already been embedded in the team
- Avoid the loss of integration between the Netcall customer experience/web forms system and the Talkdesk system, which enables a Customer Service Advisor to view information relating to a customer’s current or previous enquiries as well as contact information when speaking to a customer
- Ensure continued confidence in the service for customers and staff regarding the availability and reliability of the accessible communication channels for people with different communication needs that the existing system provides, including phone and web chat (approximately 30 to 40 web chats take place per month).

3.4 It also ensures that customers continue to receive a consistent and high-quality service from the council in the run-up to LGR, with a system that is operating well and meeting the needs of the council’s customer services team, council services areas and council customers.

4. Implications of Decisions

Financial

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The annual cost of the contract will be met from existing budgets.

Legal

4.2 The direct award of a new contract by way of an exemption conforms with the Council's adopted procurement rules and raises no legal issues.

Environmental Implications

4.3 There are no environmental implications in relation to this report.

Risk Management

4.4 If the recommendation to Cabinet to approve a direct award of contract by exemption to the current supplier for 36 months is not approved, there would be high risk to continuity of service from the customer services contact centre to residents across the district.

In any event to ensure there is continuity of service a direct award of contract by exemption would need to be made by the Head of ICT & Transformation Services for 12 months to allow for a procurement exercise to be undertaken. The cost of a direct award for 12 months would be under the council's £50k contract

Equalities Impact

4.5 Depending on their personal characteristics, customers may need to contact the council via a specific channel. By having various options available, people can communicate independently and choose the most suitable/appropriate methods dependant on their needs. The service from our current provider, with regards to communications, includes phone and web chat, and is reliable and effective. This means that both customers and staff have confidence in the system. Changing supplier could inadvertently result in unexpected complications, with regards to compatibility, which could result in a disrupted or inferior service for customers who need or prefer to use the web chat. This could cause unnecessary delays or frustrations for those customers, particularly as they are used to a system which meets their needs currently.

Data Protection

4.6 There are no data protection implications for this report. Agreements are in place for the sharing of appropriate personal data between the council and the supplier to support the delivery of the service.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 To carry out a framework procurement exercise for a new digital platform.

The existing software provides the digital services team with all the functionality that is required and there is scope for further work to maximise the benefits of the software for the council and its customers. All customer services agents are trained in the use of the system in terms of contact with customers and its built-in reporting functionality. As the team and the system are working well, it would not be logical to start a lengthy, resource-intensive procurement exercise to procure a new system, particularly in view of Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon which will necessitate the amalgamation of systems and review and procurement of new systems for the new unitary council. This option is not therefore considered appropriate.

5.2 To award the existing supplier a new contract for 12 months only.

In view of the reasons set out above, it is logical to continue with the existing supplier up to August 2029 when arrangements regarding the new unitary council should be clearer. This option is not therefore preferred.

6. Background papers

There are no background papers for this report.

Harborough District Council
Cabinet
27 July 2026

Title:	Council Annual Delivery Plan and associated Key Activities for 2026-2027
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	Yes
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Report Author:	Kay Aitken, Business Planning and Performance Manager
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Simon Whelband - Strategy Portfolio
Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Draft Annual Delivery plan 2026-2027

Summary

This document outlines the Councils key activities for delivery in 2026/27 formed from the strategic objectives of the refreshed Corporate Plan (2024-2028) and the Community Wellbeing Plan (2026-2028)

The Corporate Plan outlines the Council's Vision, Priorities, Critical Outcomes and drives the associated Key Activities for the financial year. The delivery plan also incorporates activities that are focused on the community which was highlighted in the Peer Review feedback report in 2024.

Each year a delivery plan is prepared to identify the Key Activities for delivery against the objectives of the Corporate Plan. This takes place during the annual service planning process and budget preparations.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to :

1. Approve the approach and actions outlined in the report to deliver the Corporate Plan for 2026/27 through the Annual Delivery Plan.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Corporate Plan outlines the Council's Vision, Priorities, Critical Outcomes and drives the associated Key Activities for the financial year.

An annual delivery plan is prepared to operationalise these key activities in line with service plans and budgets. These are set out in appendix A for Cabinet to approve.

It is an essential part of helping the council to deliver better outcomes for communities that these key activities, have clear actions and that delivery is monitored throughout the year.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the 2026/27 Delivery Plan that operationalises the Council's Corporate Plan (2024–2028). It explains how the Council will translate its strategic vision and priorities into concrete actions, investments, and measurable outcomes for residents, communities, and places.

1.2 The report sets out:

- How the refreshed Key Activities will deliver the vision of the Council in 2026/27.
- The appendix outlines the details of the Key Activities, programmes, and budget allocations needed to achieve improvements across Place & Community, Healthy Lives, Environment & Sustainability, and the Economy.
- The alignment of these activities with the Council's transformation agenda, climate commitments, and the ambition to build future fit, resilient communities.
- A performance and governance framework to monitor progress, ensure accountability, and report quarterly to Cabinet.

1.3 Overall, the report provides a comprehensive roadmap showing what will be delivered, how it will be funded, and what success will look like for the district between 2026 and 2028.

2. Background

2.1. The Corporate Plan is the only plan which covers the full range of the Council's responsibilities and is an important tool to set out the Councils ambitions for the district and helps focus the Councils efforts and resources on the identified priorities.

2.2 The Corporate plan was written and agreed for a 10-year period in 2022 running until 2031. It was refreshed in February 2025 following a change in administration to a Coalition. Following the recent changes in Administration in March 2026 a refreshed version of the overarching corporate plan was approved by Council on the 7th July 2026.

2.3 The Plan outlines the Council's Vision, Priorities, Critical Outcomes and associated Key Activities. A copy of the current plan can be found at [Our policies, plans and strategies - Corporate Plan | Harborough District Council]

2.4 In November 2024 a Peer Review took place. The subsequent report acknowledged there is a high-level commitment to put "communities" at the heart of HDC's work. Throughout 2025 work was undertaken to ensure a comprehensive set of Key Activities that are community focused was developed and these are highlighted as Community welling plan (peer review) actions in appendix 1

2.5 On 5 February 2025, The Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution issued a statutory invitation to councils in two-tier areas and small unitary authorities to submit proposals for reorganisation, with potential Local Government reorganisation (LGR) in place for 2028 onwards.

2.6 The development of the delivery plan took into consideration the impact that LGR will have on the council, its communities and its place

Corporate Plan Priorities 2026-2027.

3.1 The Councils Corporate plan (2026-2030) was reviewed at the full Council meeting on 6th July 2026, to reflect a change in narrative but the corporate vision remains the same:

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 businesses and residents to deliver a prosperous local economy

3.2 **Priorities:** The outcomes that are expected to be delivered will be across four principal areas:

i. **Place and community** – ensuring there is housing to meet local needs of all ages, that growth provides employment and is designed well, recognising the rural nature of the district and that communities are involved in how that growth is shaped.

ii. **Healthy Lives** – giving the guidance and support to all our residents to make healthy life choices, to live longer healthier independent lives, not only physically but in good mental health too.

iii. **Environment and sustainability** – enhancing and protecting out natural environment with improved access to open and green spaces, addressing climate issues proactively looking to future sustainable options and reducing environmental crime to further protect the environment.

iv. **Economy** – that local employment options are available to allow residents to prosper in our district, developing and retaining the skills our employers need and supporting businesses to be successful, promoting the area to both employees, employers, and visitors to ensure a stable future economy.

Identification of the Key Activities of the Annual Delivery Plan for the 2026-27 period.

3.3 The Council undertook a Corporate Peer Challenge in November 2024 to ensure that it maintains continuous improvement and high-quality services. One of the observations from that report was the need to define how the Council puts Communities at the heart of all it does.

3.4 The peer review feedback in 2024, suggested making the community aspirations of the council more integral to the corporate plan. During 2025 a Community Wellbeing actions were developed through a series of sessions with the coalition, these have been incorporated into the delivery plan under the 4 outcomes listed in 3.1.

3.5 The budget priorities were set out in the Cabinet paper on the 9th of February 2026. Following this process and subsequent changes in the administration Key Activities which are enabled through budget provision are highlighted within appendix 1.

3.6 Each year the Key Activities and Corporate Key Performance Indications (KPI's) are derived from the Council's service planning meetings with Heads of Service, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Business Planning & Performance Manager. During this process activities are identified that form part of the corporate delivery plan.

3.7 Alongside of these corporate activities, Service Plans contains activities from policies and strategies, business as usual (BAU) and any other major projects and legislative requirements, such as the introduction of new laws and duties and the impact of Local Government Reorganisation.

3.8 Following the change in administration, discussions with Cabinet and the Leader have refined the previously approved Annual Delivery Plan from March 2026. The Corporate Plan has been updated with a refreshed narrative, and the Delivery Plan has been revised to reflect additional priorities which is presented in appendix 1.

3.9 A detailed plan of all activities under the 4 Corporate outcomes is set out in Appendix 1.

In year priorities and LGR

3.10 The delivery plan aims to set out the workplan for the council for the period 2026/27. Throughout the year there may be reasons to add/alternate activities due to external priorities. Throughout the period of the new delivery plans, local government reorganisation will move towards alternative council structures in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

3.11 With this, there will be resources that may need to be reallocated to this restructuring. The Council is mindful of the pressures this will bring to current delivery plans, alongside other ad hoc requests for services. An internal gateway process will be adopted to help ensure resources continue to be focused on these strategic outcomes of the Corporate Plan.

Performance Framework for 2026/2027

3.12 We will track outcomes through a clear monitoring process and benefits framework that covers the Corporate Plan, key projects and budget priorities reporting to Cabinet quarterly.

4. Implications of Decisions

Financial

4.1 The Council's Corporate Plan feeds into the Council's budget-setting process. The budget is set in accordance with the Council's Constitution and policy framework. The expenditure proposed is within the statutory powers of the Council and is within current and existing budgets approved at Council on 23rd February 2026.The budget includes an analysis of net cost to each priority.

4.2 The Council's Corporate Plan feeds into the Council's budget-setting process. The budget is set in accordance with the Council's Constitution and policy framework to ensure that statutory duties and responsibilities are met.

Legal

4.3 The Council has the power to prepare and adopt corporate plans and delivery plans to support the exercise of its statutory functions and strategic objectives. The Annual Delivery Plan provides the framework for delivering the Council's Corporate Plan and does not, of itself, authorise the expenditure of funds, the award of contracts or the implementation of individual projects.

Any future decisions arising from the Delivery Plan which require specific approvals, procurement exercises, land transactions, grant funding or the exercise of statutory powers must be taken in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Contract Procedure Rules and all applicable legislation, with appropriate legal advice being obtained where necessary.

Environmental Implications

4.4 No environmental issues arise directly from this report.

Risk Management

4.5 The risk management of the Corporate Plan is outlined in the Corporate Risk register.

Policy

4.6 No policy issues arise directly from this report.

Equalities Impact

4.7 Matters of equality are considered as part of the business planning process. Details of equality actions relating to Key Activities outlined in the Corporate Plan are identified in Team Plans, where appropriate, and monitored via the Council’s performance management database. Decisions on major changes to service delivery will have an equality impact assessment undertaken before the decision is taken

Data Protection

4.8 No data protection issues arise directly from this report.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 There is the option not to produce an Annual Delivery Plan, identify Key Activities or set Key Performance indicators. This would not be in line with Best Practice or good governance and as such has not been considered.

6. Background papers

Corporate Plan [Our policies, plans and strategies - Corporate Plan | Harborough District Council].

[Communities | Harborough District Council]

Report on Priorities following Peer review Community Wellbeing plan report 12.11.2025

Council Papers on the Budget for 2026/2027 Agenda for Full council Feb 23rd

Cabinet report March 2026 - Council Annual Delivery Plan and associated Key Activities for 2026-2027

Draft Delivery plan for 2026-2027

This includes corporate plan activities to address Critical Outcomes, with associated activities from the Community Wellbeing plan (a focus on community via the peer review) and budget activities

PLACE & COMMUNITY	**Priority one:** **Place and Community - Community Leadership to create a sense of pride and wellbeing.**

Key activity and priority for 2026/27 critical outcome	Strategic Alignment	Service outputs (KPI's) (recorded in Pentana)	Community Outcomes
KA.01.01 Continue to develop the Customer Services centre and the digital offer to improve the customer experience	C0 5	Review service demands for face-to-face customer interactions and self-service options Customer satisfaction scores	Communities benefit from easier access to council services through a mix of digital channels and face-to-face support.
KA.01.07 Implementation and monitoring of the adopted Harborough Local Plan (2011-2031) Including sub actions - Planning decisions and planning enforcement are maintained and improved in line with the adopted ,Harborough Local Plan (2011-2031)	CO 1,2,3,5	Monitoring of the infrastructure delivery plan SP 01 Number of new affordable housing completions during the year SP 02 Supply of ready to develop housing sites in	New communities are designed appropriately, and new residents are happy and engaged with where they live Greater certainty for the community and for developers about what development will take place, where

Key activity and priority for 2026/27 critical outcome	Strategic Alignment	Service outputs (KPI's) (recorded in Pentana)	Community Outcomes
		forthcoming five-year period compared to requirement (achievement of five-year land supply) DM 01 Number of major planning applications approved within time scale DM 02 Percentage of minor and other applications determined within 8 weeks or other agreed time DM 06 satisfaction with the planning process DM 07 Number of appeals Number of planning enforcement activities	and what infrastructure will be provided to support
KA.01.09 Submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Examination	CO 1,2,3,5	Publication of the local development scheme Adoption of the local plan SP 02 Supply of ready to develop housing sites in forthcoming five-year period compared to requirement	Improved infrastructure to wider communities Sufficient land allocated to meet forecasted employment need across a range of employment sectors

Key activity and priority for 2026/27 critical outcome	Strategic Alignment	Service outputs (KPI's) (recorded in Pentana)	Community Outcomes
		(achievement of five-year land supply)	
KA 01.11 - Preserve the heritage and conservation of the district whilst developing local communities **Sub actions :-** - Continue the programme of review of the Council's conservation areas and preparation of the Local List of Heritage Assets - Support the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and prepare for their reviews. - Create a support fund enabling Neighbourhood Plan bodies to apply for assistance to develop or refresh Neighbourhood Plans.	CO 2 & 3 **Budget priority**	SP 05 Number of Conservation area reviews undertaken Local list of Heritage assets Updated SP 04 Number of communities supported to develop their NDP	Communities feel involved in their local place Satisfaction with the process Communities feeling involved in their community

Key activity and priority for 2026/27 critical outcome	Strategic Alignment	Service outputs (KPI's) (recorded in Pentana)	Community Outcomes
Support communities to take the lead in shaping their places, through initiatives like community asset transfers, so that local people can decide how best to use and care for the spaces that matter to them, This includes the following Key activities: • Facilitate a Community Assets Transfer programme • Develop and implement a clear, process and eligibility criteria for the Ward member Community funding Scheme • Helping communities to improve and influence their local Public Realm and open spaces to create pride in their place, through opportunities such as S106 • Develop a Place Shaping strategy for a sustainable and future fit Harborough • Undertake a Community Governance Review of Market Harborough and any other requested areas	Community wellbeing plan /Peer review)	Condition Surveys completed. Number of improvements take place. number of assets transferred to community ownership Number of Grants applied for, and support given to communities Number of masterplans and improvement projects completed Strategy action plan developed and monitored Agreement on whether community governance arrangements should be changed	Our local communities will have quality assets in which they can utilise for sustainable community led development Our local communities, the voluntary and charitable sectors are more engaged actively managing their own localities and shaping their own place We will have robust plans in place to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Council, maximising the use of resources and assets to create community benefits Local communities, infrastructure, housing, and public spaces are developed and sustained Our local community will have influenced the future governance arrangements for its own area

HEALTHY LIVES	**Priority Two:** **Healthier Lives - Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices**

Key activity and priority for 2026/27 critical outcome	Strategic Alignment	Service outputs (KPI's) (recorded in Pentana)	Community Outcomes
KA.02.01 Provide support for the most vulnerable in our communities Sub actions include:- - Delivery of the agreed objectives of the Armed forces Covenant - Provision of housing to the homeless - Support with employment - Targeted Health and wellbeing activities - Extension of the lightbulb provision contract - Lifeline services	CO 10	HS 12 Number of live registrations on the housing register HS 23 number of new homeless cases taken during quarter HS 25 time taken to activate housing application Number of referrals supported through from ex services community ED 31 number of residents receiving support through job fairs	Vulnerable people feel supported (case studies) Serving and veteran personnel and their families are better supported with the transition to civilian life Reduce health inequalities observed in national data Serving and veteran personnel and their families are better supported with the transition to civilian life

Key activity and priority for 2026/27 critical outcome	**Strategic Alignment**	**Service outputs (KPI's) (recorded in Pentana)**	**Community Outcomes**
		Number of people referred through the Exercise referral scheme	
KA.02.09 To identify and address key issues of Crime and Disorder through the Community Partnership, statutory duties and use of the statutory tools and powers. **Include -** Complete a feasibility study on a case for Change for CCTV across Harborough District	CO 9 **Budget Priority**	CP 01 Number of crimes reported CP 02 % satisfied with their ASB resolution CP 06 Number of ASB incidents (police) CP 07 Number of DV incidents CP 01.1 Number of violence crime incidents Number of enforcement powers used	Satisfaction of ASB complainants about resolution Fear of crime levels of Harborough residents Changing lives stories for Domestic violence.
Commit to creating mixed, vibrant neighbourhoods where everyone—regardless of income or background—can afford a safe, secure, and high-quality home • Produce an Affordable Housing action plan • Continue to work with Partners, such as Registered Social Landlords to provide affordable homes within the district	Community Wellbeing Plan (Peer Review) CO1	Number of new affordable homes delivered. Number of nights in temporary accommodation Number of affordable properties built Number of night accommodation offered by HDC properties The number of new properties purchased Action plan produced and actions monitored	There will be adequate supply of housing to meet local needs across all tenures and price ranges, and reducing the potential for homelessness Stronger community ties as residents accessing temporary homes are still able to continue to build social networks

Key activity and priority for 2026/27 critical outcome	Strategic Alignment	Service outputs (KPI's) (recorded in Pentana)	Community Outcomes
• Continue to increase the provision of temporary accommodation across the whole of the district			Local residents have options for a range of housing that is affordable to ensure that there is a good mix of demography for future sustainability
Ensure every resident has a voice in shaping Harborough's future—enabling all individuals and communities to thrive, feel heard, and be proud of where they live: *This includes* Revise the Youth Opportunity Plan with the Youth Council to develop long term outcomes for young people	Community Wellbeing plan (Peer Review)	Revised plan with ambitions from young people. Enabling young people to inform decision making process	Young people have a voice and feel involved in the local community.

Priority Three:

Environment and Sustainability – Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations.

Key activity and priority for 2026/27		Outputs Service (as measured in Pentana)	Outcomes for community
KA 03 07 Harborough District Council will be a community leader for change towards a greener and more sustainable Harborough District Sub actions incl - - Complete the Flex D project - Provide effective local air quality management. - Improving sustainability and enhancing Biodiversity of Council green assets. - All Council owned parks to reach the standards of the green flag accreditation. - Monitor local Air quality	CO 12	Deliver the Climate Action plan RS TPI 16 - Number of AQMA's monitored and emissions reduced Robust data to allow for decision making and appropriate mitigation Number of actions taken to make the Council assets more sustainable Number of new projects to increase biodiversity	Reduced greenhouse emissions Better informed communities on carbon emissions Better health outcomes to communities in areas of poor air quality Compliance with national legislation Better public realm with more biodiversity and reduced carbon footprint
Reduce environmental crime through promoting a cleaner greener environment. To include: • Engaging in partnership activities which increase the awareness of issues around flytipping such as how to report and consequences of actions, • Working with partners to identify and implement new ways of detecting and prosecuting those who commit Flytipping offences	**Budget Priority**	Fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population % fly-tipping incidents cleared within target time Number of enforcement actions taken (FPNs / prosecutions) Repeat fly-tipping hotspot locations (count) Average time to clear fly-tipping	Increased resident satisfaction with cleanliness of local area

Key activity and priority for 2026/27		Outputs Service (as measured in Pentana)	Outcomes for community
		Bulky waste collections per month Change in reported fly-tipping following fee reduction (%)	
KA 03. Harborough will work with partners to provide opportunities for householders to be more sustainable and create resilient communities. Sub actions incl - Provide domestic energy efficiency advice and measures in partnership with external organisations and Increased visits to local attractions - encourage households to participate in the Council's Collective Switching and Solar Together initiatives - Provide support, advice and match funding for community groups for environmental and climate change projects - **Work with Partners across Harborough District to address and implement actions following Setion19 flood investigation reports on flooding.(including sub action to design criteria for a funding of flood alleviation schemes)**	CO **Budget Priority**	RS 05 & RS 06 Numbers of Participants/installations carried out for energy efficiency measures	Case studies for the customers who have benefited from the service More households are able to access cheaper electricity tariffs
KA 03.06 Prepare for implementation of a new food waste service to the whole of the district.	Policy	Take up rates of food waste (number of caddies presented for	Better environmental impacts from Food waste.

Key activity and priority for 2026/27		Outputs Service (as measured in Pentana)	Outcomes for community
		street collection) once implemented	
Design inclusive, accessible open spaces that promote physical and mental wellbeing, while empowering communities to engage in building a greener, more sustainable future	**Budget Priority**	Number of play areas improved	CO11 Our natural environment will be protected and enhanced, with improved access to green spaces and increased biodiversity

ECONOMY

Priority Four:
Supporting businesses and residents to deliver a prosperous local economy

Key activity and priority for 2026/27		Outputs Service (as measured in Pentana)	Outcomes for community
KA.04.02 Ensure that we support new and existing businesses within Harborough District to be as successful as they can be. - Increasing engagement with the business community both business to business and business to Council	CO 22	Number of new businesses Increase communication with local businesses UKSPF delivery plan achieved	Business's feel supported to start in Harborough and to grow in Harborough

Key activity and priority for 2026/27		Outputs Service (as measured in Pentana)	Outcomes for community
- Work specifically with traders to support and sustain local economies - Deliver the outputs of the UKSPF funding - Introduce a targeted grants programme to support small and micro-businesses to be successful in the district	**Budget Priority**		
KA.04.03 In Line with the Economic Development Strategy, ensure that Harborough District residents (particularly young people), can gain access to the education, training, and skills they require to obtain high-quality employment and careers to help them meet their potential and live a fulfilling life	CO 18	ED 31 - Number of residents being supported via job fairs Number of people who find employment. Delivery of the youth opportunity plan	Thriving and successful employment sector as recorded via Nomis
KA 04.04 Deliver the Economic Development strategy	CO19	The action plan is delivered in 25/26	Thriving and sustainable local economy

Underlying Themes			
Transformation			
Create a future fit organisation	Deliver the Transformation Framework Action Plan	Large scale transformation Major Projects	Develop community insight on local priorities and work taking place across HDC to support communities to be future-fit.
Climate Emergency & Carbon Reduction			
Net Zero Board & decarbonisation of estate	**Climate Emergency plan**	**Rewilding and Biodiversity net gains**	**Climate adaptions framework**
Inward investment, Grants and funding opportunities			
Align Council funding opportunities to meet the objectives of the Wellbeing Plan	Seek Inward investment to drive economic growth in the district		
Local Government reorganisation			

Harborough District Council
Cabinet
27 July 2026

Title:	Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025)
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	No
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Report Author:	Tess Nelson. Head of Strategic and Local Planning
Portfolio Holders:	Finance (and Strategic Planning), Councillor Phil King. Planning Portfolio Holder, Cllr Rosita Page
Appendix:	A. Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025)

Summary

i. Preparation of a local plan is a statutory responsibility of the Council as a local planning authority.

ii. Plan making requires effective co-operation on cross-boundary strategic matters. Housing distribution, including the distribution of any unmet housing need is identified as such by the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and individual authorities.

iii. The report seeks approval of the Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025).

iv. The SoCG is directly relevant to four local plans in Leicestershire – those of Blaby District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council and supports these local plans.

v. The SoCG confirms that the previous Leicester & Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022) continues to apply for local plans progressing in accordance with the Transition Arrangements, such as the emerging Harborough District Local Plan.

vi. The SoCG therefore confirms the approach of the emerging Harborough Local Plan, submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in April 2026.

vii. The statement sets out the local housing need for Leicester and Leicestershire authorities in accordance with the new Standard Method, and the apportionment of the resultant unmet housing need by District / Borough – noting this is only applicable at present to the four local plans mentioned above: not Harborough District's emerging local plan.

viii. The Statement provides evidence of ongoing joint-working across Leicester and Leicestershire. Signing the Statement strengthens the Council's position ahead of the forthcoming Harborough District Local Plan examination.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published in December 2024 (December 2025).

Reasons for Recommendations

i. To support Harborough's submitted local plan through examination, maintain effective cooperation within Leicester and Leicestershire (that authorities must fulfil) and enable other authorities to progress their emerging plans.

ii. Approving the 2026 Statement supports four local plans currently being prepared – those of Blaby District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

iii. The Statement confirms that the previous Statement (2022), which informs the emerging Harborough District Local Plan, remains the relevant Statement for local plans progressing under the transitional arrangements.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide information on the Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025). The full text of the statement is included in Appendix A.

1.2 To request that Cabinet approves the Statement for signing. The Statement supports four local plans currently being prepared – those of Blaby District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

2. Background

2.1 A statement of common ground (SoCG) is a formal written document used in the plan making process to demonstrate collaboration between local planning authorities and strategic bodies. It helps to demonstrate effective, transparent cooperation identifying agreed facts and any outstanding issues. Such statements are an important way to demonstrate that councils have cooperated effectively to address cross-boundary strategic matters.

2.2 The previous Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022) identified the scale of Leicester's unmet needs for both housing and employment land. It set and agrees how these needs are apportioned and met by the remaining Leicestershire authorities. For Harborough, this meant accommodating 123 dwellings per annum between 2020 and 2036. The 2022 SoCG was signed by Harborough District Council in December 2023, and the 123 dwellings were added to the local housing need of 534 dwellings, resulting in a housing requirement of 657 dwellings between 2020 and 2036. This informed the housing requirement in the emerging Harborough Local Plan and remains the relevant SoCG relating to Leicester's unmet housing need for the emerging Harborough Local Plan, submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination in April 2026.

2.3 Since the 2022 Statement, the Government have issued a revised National Planning Policy Framework and new housing targets, known as the 'Standard Method' for Local Planning Authorities (December 2024 NPPF). This resulted in updated housing targets for all Leicester and Leicestershire authorities. Whilst the total number of houses to be planned for across Leicester and Leicestershire remained relatively unchanged, the distribution changed, with Leicester's need being reduced and most of the District and Boroughs seeing an increased housing need. This resulted in the need to commission further work to consider how best to apportion Leicester's revised unmet housing need to inform Local Plans which are yet to be submitted or are not progressing under transitional arrangements. This report sets out the new Statement of Common Ground which includes the revised apportionment. The new Statement of Common Ground can be found in Appendix A of this report.

2.4 The new Statement of Common Ground (2026 SoCG) is particularly relevant for four local plans in Leicestershire – those of Blaby District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council. Each of these local plans is being prepared and examined in accordance with the 2024 NPPF and the new Standard Method housing figures. The 2026 SoCG sets out the apportionment of Leicester's unmet need using the new Standard Method figures. This will inform the housing target planned for in each of those four authorities' emerging Local Plans.

2.5 The 2026 Statement confirms that for Local Plans that are being examined under the 2023 NPPF, the previous Leicester & Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022) continues to apply. The SoCG therefore confirms that the previous 2022 Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground (signed by the Council in December 2023) continues to apply for the emerging Harborough Local Plan.

2.6 The Statement has been approved by each of the other partner authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire, namely: Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

3. Details

3.1 The full text of the 2026 Statement is included at Appendix A.

3.2 Sections 1-3 of the Statement are standard elements for a SoCG and set out the parties involved, the purpose of the statement, its background and context.

3.3 Section 4 is the substantive part of the statement. It affirms matters of agreement including;

- The authorities' track record and evidence of effective joint working
- the local housing need for each authority, calculated using the new Standard Method **apart from** for those Local Plans (including the emerging Harborough District Local Plan) being prepared under the NPPF Transitional Arrangements, for which the previous standard method and previous housing figures continue to apply
- confirming that the previous NPPF (2023) and previous SoCG (L&L Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs, June 2022) continues to apply to Local Plans being prepared under the NPPF Transitional Arrangements.
- that the previous (2022) and new (2026) SoCG will co-exist and provide the basis for their respective local plans across L&L
- the background work undertaken on behalf of L&L authorities to recalculate Leicester's unmet need based on the new Standard Method figures and to apportion this unmet need across L&L authorities on the basis of their functional relationship with the Leicester City area (Updated Housing Distribution Paper – see Background Papers in section 6)
- the apportionment of Leicester's unmet need in accordance with Table 2 below will be used for local plans being prepared in accordance with the current local plan system and the 2024 NPPF. **The apportionment of unmet need set out in Table 2 does not apply to the emerging Harborough Local Plan, being prepared under transitional arrangements in accordance with the 2023 NPPF:**

Table 2: Annualised Apportionment of Unmet Need from 2024 over relevant plan periods

	Revised Standard Method dpa (December 2024)	Proposed Housing Requirement dpa	Contribution to Unmet Need dpa	% Contribution	Plan End Date*
Blaby	539	654	115	25.1	2042
Charnwood	992	1,133	141	30.8	2046
Harborough	735	797	62	13.5	2046
Hinckley & Bosworth	663	711	48	10.5	2045
Melton	369	388	19	4.2	2046
NW Leicestershire	617	690	73	15.9	2042
Oadby & Wigston	389	389	0	0	2042
Leicestershire Total	4,304	4,762	458	100	

*NB 2046 is used as the default plan end date in the UHDP for non-Tranche 3 local plans.

- the figures quoted in Table 2 above are annualised averages, reflecting different unmet need figures for Leicester in the period to 2036 and the period 2036 to 2046.

3.4 Section 5 deals with maintaining and updating the Statement and planning for future needs to 2046. It sets out the authorities' agreement that the Statement is necessary to enable the preparation of the four local plans listed above (known as 'Tranche 3' local plans); commits each of these four authorities to test the housing figures set out in Table 2 above through their local plan process; and confirms that the Statement will be reconfirmed and updated for subsequent authorities' local plans.

<u>Harborough Local Plan</u>

3.5 Paragraph 4.4 of the Statement explains that the 2022 L&L Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022) will continue to apply to local plans being prepared and examined on the basis of the 2023 NPPF, in accordance with transitional arrangements. This is the case for the emerging Harborough Local Plan. As such, this Statement is helpful in confirming that the distribution of Leicester's unmet need set out in Table 2 of this Statement does not apply to the emerging Harborough Local Plan. Instead, the emerging Harborough Local Plan accommodates 123 dwellings per annum of Leicester's unmet need (2020 – 2036) in accordance with the 2022 Statement (signed by Harborough District Council in December 2023).

3.6 The Statement confirms that the figures set out in table 2 above will be tested through the emerging local plans of Blaby District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

3.7 The Statement explains that further iterations and updates of the Statement may be needed in light of future evidence and to inform subsequent authorities' local plans.

4. Implications of Decisions

Financial

4.1 No additional costs outside of existing budgets arise from this report at present. The cost of preparing the statement and its supporting evidence has been met by all the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities making agreed contributions.

Legal

4.2 The submitted Local Plan is required to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and other government guidance and requirements. This includes working effectively on cross-boundary strategic matters. The Statement helps to address this requirement.

4.3 The Government has confirmed as of 25 March 2026, the statutory Duty to Cooperate (DtC), introduced by the Localism Act 2011, is abolished for local plans in England. Notwithstanding this, the Government has been clear on the need for plan making authorities to continue to maintain collaboration, something the examining Inspectors will consider through the Test of Soundness.

Environmental Implications

4.4 The decision, in and of itself, will have no specific impact. The environmental implications of the emerging Local Plan are assessed within the Sustainability Appraisal report that accompanies the Plan.

Risk Management

4.5 Statements of Common Ground remain a key part of an authority’s local plan evidence to demonstrate they have complied with the Tests of Soundness. The preparation of Statements of Common Ground is identified as a mitigation measure in the Risk Assessment section of the Local Development Scheme (LDS, Nov 2025) to address strategic cross boundary matters. Signing the Statement helps to reduce risk during Examination of the emerging Harborough District Local Plan. It confirms the agreement amongst Leicester & Leicestershire authorities that the previous (2022) Statement, approved and signed by the council in December 2023, applies to Local Plans such as the emerging Harborough Local Plan being prepared in accordance with the transitional arrangements.

Equalities Impact

4.6 The decision, in and of itself, will have no specific impact. An Equalities Impact Assessment has considered the impact of the full suite of policies set out within the Local Plan, as submitted.

Data Protection

4.7 No data protection implications are associated with the recommendation.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 The alternative option is not to sign the Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following new Standard Method and NPPF published December 2024 (December 2025). However, this could weaken the Council’s position at the examination, in terms of demonstrating effective cooperation, and could undermine the policy approach set out in the submitted Local Plan.

This option is not preferred for these reasons and its potential to affect long-standing partnership working on this matter within Leicester and Leicestershire and the progress of other authority's local plans.

6. Background papers

6.1 Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (2022) Publication of Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs - Strategic Growth Plan LCC | Strategic Growth Plan LCC

6.2 Updated Housing Distribution Paper Final Report – November 2025 Publication of Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025) - Strategic Growth Plan LCC | Strategic Growth Plan LCC

6.3 The Draft Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 (as submitted 17 April 2026) https://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/download/1734/proposed_submission_draft_harborough_local_plan

Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution following NPPF and new Standard Method published December 2024 (December 2025)

1.0 The Leicester and Leicestershire HMA and FEMA

1.1 The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) covers the administrative areas of eight local planning authorities and two transport authorities. The eight local planning authorities responsible for plan making are:

- Blaby District Council
- Charnwood Borough Council
- Harborough District Council
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
- Leicester City Council (Unitary)
- Melton Borough Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

1.2 The two upper tier authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire (L&L), with statutory responsibilities for transportation, education, social care, flooding, minerals & waste planning and public health are:

- Leicester City Council (Unitary)
- Leicestershire County Council

1.3 This Statement has been prepared jointly by the eight plan making authorities and Leicestershire County Council as an additional signatory given their statutory responsibilities, hereafter referred to as “the authorities”. The Map in Appendix 1 shows the location and administrative areas covered by this statement. The Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (June 2022), to which the Updated Housing Distribution Paper (November 2025) relates, identifies this area as the Leicester & Leicestershire HMA and FEMA.

2.0 Background and Context

2.1 In December 2024 the new Standard Method was published alongside a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 12 December 2024). This changed the overall scale of housing to be provided for in the L&L Housing Market Area (HMA) by a relatively small amount, however, the distribution across the L&L HMA significantly changed due to the deletion of the 35% urban uplift. The effect of this was to significantly reduce Local Housing Need (LHN) in Leicester City, whilst the LHN in most other Districts and Boroughs significantly increased.

2.2 Following the publication of the new NPPF, the authorities prepared the “Duty to Co-operate Statement – Transitional arrangements in respect of unmet need” (February 2025). This confirms and clearly sets out how all partners are progressing local plans, and in particular how to deal with the matter of unmet need in the absence of specific reference to this issue in the Transitional arrangements[1]. This Duty to Cooperate Statement (DtC Statement February 2025) is available at Appendix 2.

2.3 The L&L Housing & Economic Needs Assessment June 2022 (HENA 2022) was based on the assessment of local housing need using the Standard Method in March 2022. This showed a need for 5,713 dpa across the HMA. The HENA 2022 Housing Distribution Paper set out an agreed methodology for apportioning Leicester City's unmet housing need (at the time of 18,700 homes) and 23ha of employment need (2020 to 2036). Following publication of the new Standard Method and the reduction in Leicester City's LHN, the scale of unmet housing need was significantly reduced. It was therefore necessary to revisit the HENA's Housing Distribution Paper to inform the Local Plans which are utilising the new Standard Method and will be submitted by the December 2026 deadline, together with future Local Plan reviews within the HMA.

2.4 The authorities agreed to commission an update to the HENA 2022 Housing Distribution Paper to inform the apportionment of unmet need under the new Standard Method (December 2024).

3.0 Purpose

3.1 In accordance with paragraph 25 of the NPPF (2024), the key strategic matters addressed in this statement are: Duty to Cooperate and joint working; L&L housing needs to 2046 under the new Standard Method (December 2024); unmet need to 2046; and apportionment of unmet need to 2046. This statement has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 28 of the NPPF (2024) and will support the submission of four local plans in Leicestershire directly affected by these matters – Blaby District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council – by the 31 December 2026 deadline. These four local plans are referred to as Tranche 3 Local Plans in the DtC Statement (February 2025) and hereafter in this statement. This statement will be reconfirmed and updated for subsequent authorities' local plans.

4.0 Key Strategic Matters on which the Authorities agree

Duty to Cooperate and Joint Working

4.1 The authorities agree there is a long track record of effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters across L&L and that these include the key strategic matters identified in this statement. The authorities have continuously engaged with each other on the strategic matters set out in this statement and throughout the preparation of Local Plans across the area. This is most clearly evidenced by:

- The continued function of the L&L Members Advisory Group and Strategic Planning Group
- The joint preparation of evidence, including the update to the 2022 Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (2025), L&L Strategic Distribution Floorspace Needs Update and Apportionment (2025), South Leicestershire Joint Transport Evidence

[1] As set out in Annex 1 of the December 2024 NPPF.

(2025), Strategic Growth Options and Constraints Mapping Study (2023), and Strategic Transport Assessment Stage 1 (2023).
- The adoption of a non-statutory Strategic Growth Plan 2018
- The L&L Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022) (Appendix 3)[2]
- The agreement of Joint Statements of Cooperation in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021 (available on the Strategic Growth Plan website)

4.2 More information and details of engagement will be set out in individual authority's Duty to Cooperate/Maintaining Effective Cooperation Statements that accompany local plans. Authorities will continue to engage on an ongoing basis.

L&L Housing Needs to 2046 under the new Standard Method (Dec 2024)

4.3 The authorities agree that local housing need is derived using the standard method and that for the 2024-2046 period is as set out in Table 1 below. This table does not apply for local plans being prepared in accordance with the Transition Arrangements set out in Annex 1 of the NPPF (2024) where the previous standard method calculation applies. Individual local plans may have a shorter plan period than to 2046.

Table 1: Local Housing Need, Standard Method, May 2025

Local Planning Authority	**Total Housing Need** **2024-2046**	**Houses per year** **2024-2046**
Blaby District Council	11,858	539
Charnwood Borough Council	21,824	992
Harborough District Council	16,170	735
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	14,586	663
Leicester City Council	34,936	1,588
Melton Borough Council	8,118	369
North West Leicestershire District Council	13,574	617
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	8,558	389
Leicester and Leicestershire HMA Total	129,624	5,892

4.4 The authorities agree that the NPPF 2023 and L&L Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022) apply to local plans that reached examination or Regulation 19 on or before 12 March 2025. This is set out in the DtC Statement (February 2025). For local plans that reached Regulation 19 after 12 March 2025 but before 31 December 2026, the NPPF 2024 (or relevant future iterations)

[2] Appendices E to J of the June 2022 Statement of Common Ground are available on the Strategic Growth Plan website

and this Statement of Common Ground will apply. These two Statements of Common Ground will co-exist to enable full local plan coverage across L&L.

4.5 Leicester City Council will begin a Local Plan Review immediately following the adoption of the Leicester City Local Plan 2020 to 2036. This will be informed by additional evidence in due course that will be used to identify the full housing capacity for that review.

Housing Distribution Update and Unmet Need to 2046

4.6 This L&L Statement of Common Ground is supported by evidence from the HENA Updated Housing Distribution Paper (UHDP) produced by Iceni on behalf of the authorities and published on the Strategic Growth Plan website. The update provides a new Housing Distribution Paper to that published to accompany the L&L HENA published in June 2022. The authorities agree that the UHDP sets out the apportionment of Leicester City's unmet housing need in the L&L HMA arising from the use of the new Standard Method up to 2046.

4.7 The UHDP recalculates the level of unmet need for Leicester City from 2024 to 2036 to be a total of 2,455 dwellings, based on the new standard method and housing provision figures set out in the Leicester Local Plan. The UHDP also sets out the approach that has been used to identify a housing capacity for the City after 2036. Leicester City has a continuing unmet need for housing; using a proportionate evidence base the UHDP indicates that for the period 2036 – 2046 Leicester City has an estimated unmet need of 8,230 dwellings.

4.8 Oadby & Wigston Borough Council has undertaken further evidence to assess the housing capacity and developable and deliverable land within the Borough to accommodate the increase in Local Housing Need from 189 to 389 homes per year. From the evidence available at this time, for the purpose of this Statement of Common Ground, it has been assumed that Oadby & Wigston will just be able to meet its own need from a land supply position but not be able to accept any unmet need from Leicester. Evidence gathering is still being undertaken by the Council in relation to accommodation of the uplifted LHN and when complete, consideration will need to be given to the outcome of this by the HMA authorities.

Housing Requirement Figures for Tranche 3 Local Plans – Apportionment of Unmet Need to 2046

4.9 The authorities agree that the apportioned contributions to unmet need established through the UHDP and set out in Table 2 below will be used by those authorities submitting a local plan for examination under the NPPF December 2024 using the current planning system as governed by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

4.10 As circumstances change through the availability of new evidence this will be considered by the authorities and future Statements of Common Ground may be needed. However, to enable proactive, timely local plan-making for the four Tranche 3

Local Plans, the figures in Table 2 below will be used and remain in place for the submission of the four Tranche 3 Local Plans before 31 December 2026. The housing requirement for individual Tranche 3 Local Plans will depend on their plan periods, as the contribution to unmet need is different for the period *to* 2036 and the period *after* 2036.

Table 2: Annualised Apportionment of Unmet Need from 2024 over relevant plan periods

	Revised Standard Method dpa (December 2024)	Proposed Housing Requirement dpa	Contribution to Unmet Need dpa	% Contribution	Plan End Date*
Blaby	539	654	115	25.1	2042
Charnwood	992	1,133	141	30.8	2046
Harborough	735	797	62	13.5	2046
Hinckley & Bosworth	663	711	48	10.5	2045
Melton	369	388	19	4.2	2046
NW Leicestershire	617	690	73	15.9	2042
Oadby & Wigston	389	389	0	0	2042
Leicestershire Total	4,304	4,762	458	100	

*NB 2046 is used as the default plan end date in the UHDP for non-Tranche 3 local plans.

5.0 Maintaining and Updating this Statement

5.1 The authorities acknowledge that this statement is necessary to progress the four Tranche 3 local plans under the current planning system as governed by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

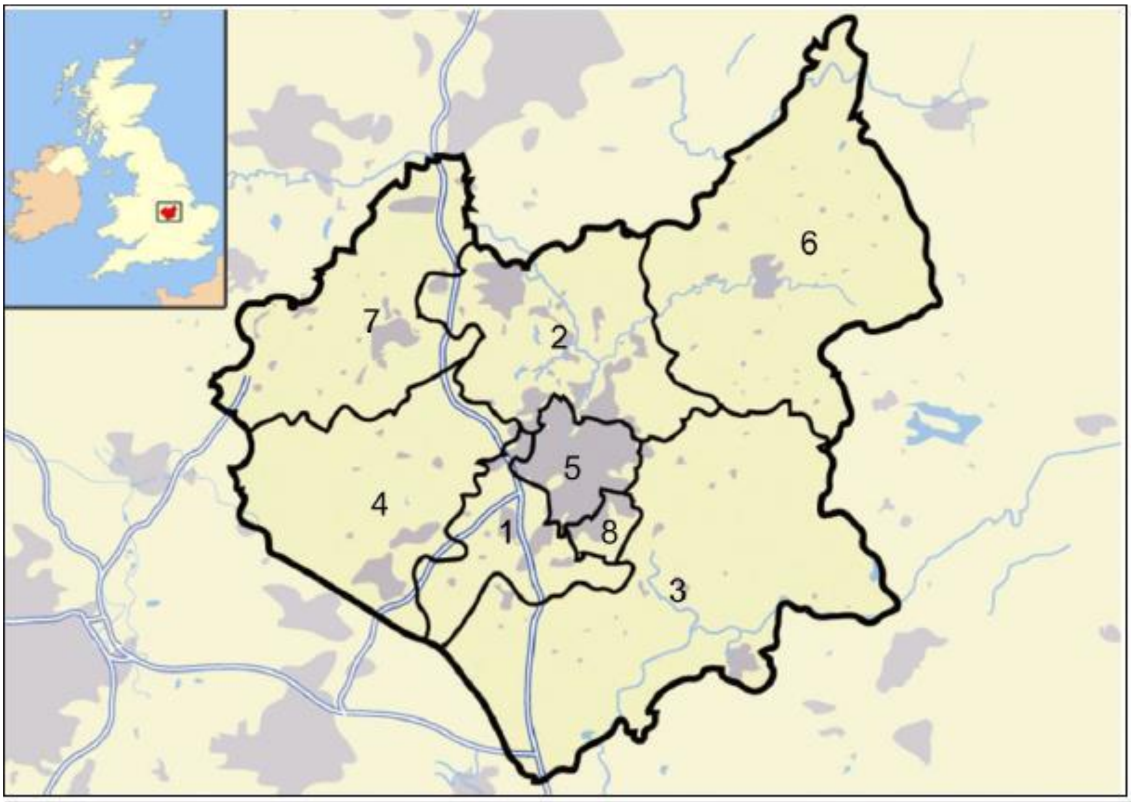
5.2 A new local planning system will be introduced early in 2026 together with the introduction of Spatial Development Strategies, through which local housing needs will be distributed across a geography that is yet to be determined. The formal duty to produce Spatial Development Strategies is expected in Spring 2026 through secondary legislation, following the expected royal assent of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

5.3 Government is seeking full coverage of up-to-date local plans, and the Tranche 3 local plans are at an advanced stage of preparation. The authorities agree that the figures set out in Table 2 will be tested through each Tranche 3 authority's local plan process.

5.4 This statement will be reconfirmed and updated for subsequent authorities' local plans through the joint working of the authorities.

Appendix 1

Map showing administrative areas covered by 2025 Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing Distribution under the new Standard Method



Key to Map

1. Blaby District Council
2. Charnwood Borough Council
3. Harborough District Council
4. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
5. Leicester City Council
6. Melton Borough Council
7. North West Leicestershire District Council
8. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Appendix 2

DUTY TO CO-OPERATE STATEMENT

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF UNMET NEED

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTH-WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this joint statement is to support the progression and adoption of our current and future Local Plans and Spatial Development Strategy (SDS).

1.2 To confirm the agreed position of all partner councils on arrangements to deal with existing unmet need and to confirm the agreed way forward through the Dec 2024 NPPF transitional period into the new Planning system.

1.3 This statement will be used to provide an updated position to appointed Inspectors for Plans currently being Examined, and for use in preliminary discussions with PINs for emerging Plans.

2. Background

2.1 L&L councils have a long standing and exemplary track record in joint planning as evidenced by the preparation and adoption of the Strategic Growth Plan LCC and the 2022 Publication of Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs - Strategic Growth Plan LCC | Strategic Growth Plan LCC

2.2 L&L councils are keen to maintain momentum on Local Plan making, are committed to supporting plan progression through the changing legislative context and to begin to make preparations for emerging SDS requirements.

2.3 This statement confirms how all partners have agreed to progress plans, and in particular how to deal with the matter of unmet need in the absence of specific reference to this issue in the Transitional arrangements as set out in Annex 1 of the December 2024 National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK

3. Current position

3.1 The current position in respect of Plan preparation and adoption in the area is set out in Table 1 Plan Tracker below:

Table 1: L&L DtC Plan Tracker					
Tranche	**Council**	**Plan stage/LDS Position**	**Relevant NPPF/Plan system**	**Agreed Mechanism to determine Unmet Need to support Plan**	**Comments**
Tranche 1: Already Submitted. **Projected adoption 2025**	Charnwood Borough Council	Main Examination Hearings completed 2024; to be reconvened early 2025 Adoption Spring/Summer 2025	Dec 2023 NPPF	June 2022 SoCG Examination Document EX43	Reconvened hearing session to consider CIL Viability Assessment report in early 2025
	Leicester City	Main Examination Hearings completed November 2024 Modifications Consultation planned Spring 2025 Adoption Summer 2025	Dec 2023 NPPF	June 2022 SoCG Examination Document SCG/1	Commitment to Immediate Review on adoption of Plan
Tranche 2: Submission anticipated 2025. Projected Adoption 2026	Melton	Partial Review Reg 19 Consultation to be concluded by February 2025	Dec 2023 NPPF (Transition Period Under para 234 of 2024 NPPF)	June 2022 SoCG	
	Harborough	Reg 19 Consultation March 2025	Dec 2023 NPPF (Transition Period Under para 234 of 2024 NPPF)	June 2022 SoCG	

Tranche	Council	Plan stage/LDS Position	Relevant NPPF/Plan system	Agreed Mechanism to determine Unmet Need to support Plan	Comments
Tranche 3: Submission anticipated 2026, **Projected Adoption 2027/28+**	Blaby	Reg 19 Consultation: July 2025	December 2024 NPPF (post transition)	Future SoCG to replace 2022 SoCG based upon new Standard methodology and L&L HENA/capacity evidence	Provisions of 2022 SoCG remain valid until replaced by new SoCG
	Hinckley & Bosworth	Reg 19 Consultation: to be confirmed	December 2024 NPPF (post transition)	Future SoCG to replace 2022 SoCG based upon new Standard methodology and L&L HENA/capacity evidence	Provisions of 2022 SoCG remain valid until replaced by new SoCG
	North- West Leicestershire	Reg 19 Consultation to be confirmed	December 2024 NPPF (post transition)	Future SoCG to replace 2022 SoCG based upon new Standard methodology and L&L HENA/capacity evidence	Provisions of 2022 SoCG remain valid until replaced by new SoCG
	Oadby & Wigston	Consultation on Regulation 19 Plan concluded February 2025	January/February 2025 Reg 19 consultation carried out under Nov 2023 NPPF. Call for Sites and new capacity assessment work to be undertaken during 2025 to inform new Plan/further Reg 19 under December 2024 NPPF (post transition)	2025 Reg 19 carried out under 2023 NPPF; complies with 2022 SoCG commitments which remain valid until replaced with future SoCG based upon new Standard methodology and HENA/L&L capacity evidence	Provisions of 2022 SoCG remain valid until replaced by new SoCG/new Plan

Tranche	Council	Plan stage/LDS Position	Relevant NPPF/Plan system	Agreed Mechanism to determine Unmet Need to support Plan	Comments
Tranche 4: Future Plans	New Spatial Development Strategy (SDS)	2025 1) Geography Scoping 2) Initial evidence gathering	New Planning system TBC	Strategic Plan will supersede SoCG approach and confirm Strategic Housing distribution	Potential Funding/Pilot Bid to MHCLG?
	Plans delayed or deferred due to LGR/Devolution	Not currently anticipated	New LURA/ P&Inf Bill/Devolution Bill Planning system TBC	In line with future SDS	
	Plans failed to be found sound from Tranches 1-3	Not currently anticipated	New LURA/ P&Inf Bill/Devolution Bill Planning system TBC	In line with future SDS	

4. Agreed Position

4.1 The partners **agree** that for Local Plans progressing and adopted under the 2023 NPPF (Tranche 1 of Table 1 above) and those under the transitional arrangements as set out in Para 234 of Annex 1 of the 2024 NPPF (Tranche 2 of Table 1 above), the scale and distribution provisions for unmet need as set out in the 2022 Statement of Common Ground remain valid and in force.

4.2 The partners **agree** that progression of Local plans beyond the Transitional arrangements of the December 2024 NPPF will need to be informed by updated needs and capacity assessments relevant to those plans and the partners commit to working together to accommodate the area's needs once those results are known.

Appendix 3

Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022)

1.0 The Leicester and Leicestershire HMA and FEMA

1.1 The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Economic Area (FEMA) covers the administrative areas of eight local planning authorities and two transport authorities. The eight local planning authorities responsible for plan making are:

- Blaby District Council
- Charnwood Borough Council
- Harborough District Council
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
- Leicester City Council (Unitary)
- Melton Borough Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

1.2 The two upper tier authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire (L&L), with statutory responsibilities for transportation, education, social care, flooding, minerals & waste planning and public health are:

- Leicester City Council (Unitary)
- Leicestershire County Council

1.3 This Statement has been prepared jointly by the eight plan making authorities and Leicestershire County Council as an additional signatory given their statutory responsibilities, hereafter referred to as "the authorities". The Map in Appendix D shows the location and administrative areas covered by this statement. The Housing & Economic Needs Assessment 2022 (HENA) identifies this area as the Leicester & Leicestershire HMA and FEMA.

2.0 Purpose

2.1 The key strategic matters addressed in this statement are; Duty to Cooperate; L&L Housing and Employment Needs to 2036; Unmet Need to 2036; and the Apportionment of unmet need to 2036. This statement will be reconfirmed and updated as necessary for subsequent authorities' Local Plans.

3.0 Key Strategic Matters on which Authorities Agree

Duty to Cooperate

3.1 The authorities agree there is a long track record of effective joint working on strategic matters across L&L. The authorities have continuously engaged with each other on the strategic matters set out in this statement and throughout the preparation of Local Plans across the area. This is most clearly evidenced through:

- The establishment of the Leicester & Leicestershire Members Advisory Group
- The joint preparation of evidence, including the Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (2022), Strategic Growth Options & Constraints Study (2022), and Strategic Transport Assessment (2022).

- The adoption of a non-statutory Strategic Growth Plan 2018 which includes 'notional' housing figures.
- The preparation of a Joint Sustainability Appraisal to consider reasonable alternatives for apportionment of Leicester's unmet need to 2036.
- The agreement of Joint Statements of Cooperation in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021 (Appendix E, F, G and H)

3.2 More information and details of engagement will be set out in individual authorities Duty to Cooperate Statements that accompany Local Plans. Authorities will continue to engage on an ongoing basis.

The June 2021 Statement of Common Ground (Appendix H)

3.3 The June 2021 Statement (Appendix H) was agreed by all authorities and included the following:

"*The authorities agree to carry out the following programme of work to inform the apportionment of unmet need from Leicester to the L&L Districts/Boroughs:*

- *Housing and Economic Needs Assessment*
- *Strategic Growth Options and Constraints Mapping*
- *Strategic Transport Assessment*
- *Sustainability Appraisal*

This work will be commissioned in Spring 2021 and used to inform a Statement of Common Ground apportioning unmet need which is anticipated to be completed in Winter 2021/2022."

3.4 The Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) and the Sustainability Appraisal are now complete. These are the key pieces of evidence informing this Statement of Common Ground apportioning Leicester's unmet need to 2036.

3.5 The Strategic Transport Assessment and the Strategic Growth Options & Constraints Mapping take a longer-term perspective that will inform the next steps for the Strategic Growth Plan to 2050 and will form part of the strategic evidence for Local Plans. This work will be completed later this year.

L&L Housing Need to 2036

3.6 The authorities agree the appropriate way to calculate local housing need is using the current standard method set out in government guidance which currently uses the 2014 based household projections. The authorities agree that local housing need (2020 - 2036) is as follows:

Table 1: Local Housing Need

Local Planning Authority	Total Housing Need 2020 – 2036	Houses per year 2020 - 2036
Blaby District Council	5,456	341
Charnwood Borough Council	17,776*	1,111*
Harborough District Council	8,544	534
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	7,552	472
Leicester City Council	39,424	2,464
Melton Borough Council	3,696	231
North West Leicestershire District Council	5,952	372
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	3,008	188
Leicester and Leicestershire HMA Total	91,408	5,713

* In accordance with government guidance Charnwood's Local Housing Need is set using the data from 2021 (including household growth for the 2021-31 and 2020 affordability ratio) as it submitted its Local Plan for Examination in December 2021.

3.7 The Government's current standard method for calculating housing need suggests L&L need to provide 91,408 homes (5,713 per year 2020 to 2036).

3.8 The NPPF requires authorities to have a clear understanding of the land available in their area to meet housing need through the preparation of a strategic housing land availability assessment (SHLAA). In L&L, the SHLAAs have been prepared using an agreed methodology across the HMA as a whole.

3.9 Appendix A and B to this Statement have been prepared using the outputs of the standard method for calculating housing need and SHLAAs. It provides a summary of the need for new homes, and the theoretical capacity of both the HMA and each local authority.

3.10 To 2036 there is a theoretical capacity for some 173,721 homes across the HMA as a whole (Appendix B). When set against the need of 91,408 (2020-36), the authorities agree there is flexibility to meet L&L housing need within the HMA, including unmet need.

L&L Employment Need to 2036

3.11 The authorities agree the appropriate way to calculate employment need is using the jointly prepared Housing and Economic Needs Assessment 2022 (HENA) unless an up-to-date local assessment has been undertaken. Based on the HENA and local assessments of employment land need the authorities agree the need is as follows:

Table 2: Employment Land Needs

	Need			Source
	B1	B2/B8 (small)	Total	
Blaby	9.1	29.0	38.1	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
Charnwood	7.5	35.7	43.2	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
Harborough	6.8	39.3	46.1	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
H&B	4.2	53.4	57.6	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
Leicester	46,100 sqm (2.3 ha)	67.3	69.6	2019-36 need, City EDNA 2020
Melton	2	38.1	40.1	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
NWL	8.9	31.8	40.7	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
O&W	1	3.1	4.1	2021-36 need, HENA 2022
L&L Total	41.8	297.7	339.5	

3.12 Table 2 above shows L&L have to provide 340 hectares of employment land to 2036. Appendix C has been prepared using outputs from the HENA and local assessments of employment need, and employment land supply. It provides a summary of the need for new employment land, and the supply of both the FEMA and each local authority. To 2036 there is a supply for some 354 hectares across the FEMA as a whole (Appendix C). When set against the need of 340 (2021-36), the authorities agree there is flexibility to meet L&L Employment Need within the FEMA, including unmet need.

Unmet need to 2036

3.13 The authorities agree that Leicester City Council is the only authority in the HMA to have declared and quantified (with evidence) an unmet need 2020 to 2036. Assisting Leicester to meet its unmet need is therefore a key element of the Duty to Co-operate across the HMA.

3.14 Leicester City Council consulted on a Draft Local Plan (regulation 18) in September to December 2020, with a view to publishing the Submission Version (regulation 19) in 2021. Leicester City declared an unmet housing need in February 2017 (Appendix I) which remained unquantified while further evidence was gathered to support the publication of their Draft Local Plan. During this time several authorities have adopted local plans.

3.15 The L&L authorities were made aware of the potential scale of unmet need in December 2019. Consultation on the Leicester Draft Local Plan (and associated evidence) was delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic until September to December 2020.

3.16 Leicester's Draft Local Plan consultation indicates a potential unmet need of 7,742 homes and 23 Hectares of employment land (B2 General Industrial and B8 Small Warehousing Units less than 9,000 sq.m) 2019 to 2036.

3.17 However, immediately after the consultation closed in December 2020 the Government published a new standard method for calculating housing need. The new method increased Leicester's housing need by 35%, adding a further 9,712 homes to their need between 2020 and 2036 (607 homes per year).

3.18 Although the supply of homes in Leicester may evolve as their local plan progresses, providing for this amount of additional homes in the City would require more than a doubling of the allocations set out in their recent Draft Local Plan. In this context the City consider that it will not be possible to meet NPPF policy obligations of a sound and deliverable plan, and so in the revised PPG context (Paragraph: 035 Reference ID: 2a-035-20201216) it will be necessary to seek to agree a Statement of Common Ground to deal with the recent increase in housing need.

3.19 Leicester's standard method Local Housing Need figure is now 2,464 homes per year generating a need for 39,424 dwellings over the 2020-36 period (see Table 1 above). This includes the 'cities and urban areas uplift' and the 2021 affordability ratios published in March 2022. Appendix A and B, and the June 2021 Statement of Common Ground (Appendix H) was informed by the evidence from the Leicester's Draft Local Plan which sets out the City's capacity to accommodate growth over this period as 20,721 dwellings. An unmet need of 18,700 dwellings is therefore identified based on the evidence at the current time. An unmet need figure of 18,700 dwellings is a reasonable working assumption for the City's unmet housing need to 2036.

3.20 The authorities acknowledge that the quantity of Leicester's unmet need may change as the Local Plan progresses (e.g. as evidence on land supply is developed further or the need for homes changes (see section 4.0 below)). The authorities therefore agree a working assumption of Leicester's unmet need of 18,700 homes and 23 Hectares of employment land (2020 – 2036). These figures are subject to testing through the Leicester Local Plan.

Apportionment of Leicester's Unmet Need (2020 – 2036)

3.21 The authorities agree the L&L Statement of Common Ground Sustainability Appraisal (2022), the Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (2022) and the associated Housing and Employment Distribution Papers provide the latest cooperatively produced evidence to inform the apportionment of Leicester's unmet needs.

3.22 This work is based on the agreed working assumption of an unmet need from Leicester of 18,700 homes. The work considers housing provision across the HMA as a whole having regard to a range of factors including, the functional relationship of each District/Borough with Leicester City, the balance of jobs and homes in each district/borough, and deliverability of the distribution of development. When all of these factors are brought together, they address the unmet need and result in a redistributed housing provision that differs from the standard method starting point. This evidence has informed the following apportionment:

Table 3: Apportionment of Leicester City's Unmet Local Housing Need 2020 to 2036

Local Planning Authority	Average Annual unmet housing need contribution 2020 to 2036 (dwellings)*
Blaby District Council	346
Charnwood Borough Council	78
Harborough District Council	123
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	187
Melton Borough Council	69
North West Leicestershire District Council	314
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	52
Total	1,169

*Note: the figures are presented as annual averages 2020-36. This does not imply that an authority's unmet need apportionment must be phased evenly over this period. It will be for each Local Plan to determine appropriate phasing.

3.23 The authorities agree that the figures in the Table 3 above represent the agreed apportionment by District/Borough (apart from Hinckley & Bosworth – see Matters Not Agreed in Section 4 below), of the unmet housing need for Leicester, in order to meet the overall objectively assessed need for additional housing within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area to 2036. These figures are subject to testing through each individual Local Planning Authority's plan making.

3.24 Based on the agreed working assumption of an unmet need from Leicester of 23 hectares of employment land (B2 - General Industrial and B8 - Small Warehousing units less than 9,000sq.m), the joint evidence has informed the following apportionment:

Table 4: Apportionment of Leicester City's Unmet Employment Need 2020 to 2036

Local Planning Authority	Apportionment (Hectares)
Blaby District Council	0
Charnwood Borough Council	23
Harborough District Council	0
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	0
Melton Borough Council	0
North West Leicestershire District Council	0
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	0
Total	23

3.25 The authorities agree that the figures in the Table 4 above represent the agreed apportionment by District/Borough, of the unmet employment need for Leicester, in order to meet the overall objectively assessed need for employment land within the Leicester and Leicestershire FEMA to 2036. These figures are subject to testing through each individual Local Planning Authority's plan making.

4.0 <u>Key Strategic Matters on which Authorities Do Not Agree</u>

4.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) do not agree to the step in the HENA Housing Distribution Paper (2022) methodology from paragraph 6.21 to 6.24 and the subsequent table 6.9 which apportions 187 dwellings per year of Leicester's unmet housing need. HBBC note the capping of the redistribution of Charnwood's numbers to 1189 and believe that the accommodation of the resulting 187 dpa shortfall should be tested as part of each LPAs Local Plan process, including the current Charnwood Local Plan. HBBC consider that an apportionment of 102 dwellings per year (85 dwellings per year lower than the apportionment in Table 3) to be an initial justified apportionment of Leicester's unmet need for HBBC to test through their Local Plan work and through further strategic work. HBBC disagrees with the methodology from para 6.21 to 6.24 and the subsequent table 6.9 as it is not suitably justified and does not follow the evidence. The use of stock growth is not a measure of deliverability. It does not consider housing need, does not reflect market demand or the deliverability of developing housing in a particular area. The capping of redistribution based on 1.4% stock growth levels is considered to be arbitrary and is not supported by the evidence. Para 6.24 seeks to justify the uplift for HBBC by referencing job opportunities but this has already been considered earlier in the methodology.

4.2 HBBC is of the view that the June 2021 SoCG was clear that the apportionment of unmet need would be informed by 4 pieces of work. Only two of these pieces have been completed, the HENA and the SA. Therefore, as reflected in this Statement, the apportionment is a starting point for testing and may be amended based on the completion of the Strategic Growth Options and Constraints mapping work and the Strategic Transport Assessment and the subsequently updated Sustainability Appraisal and the outcome of any local plan 'testing'.

4.3 The other authorities do not agree with HBBC and consider the apportionment of 187 dwellings per year in Table 3 is justified by the evidence.

5.0 <u>Maintaining and Updating this Statement</u>

5.1 The authorities acknowledge the Government intend to reform the planning system and have previously consulted on potential future changes, including the Planning for the Future - White Paper (August 2020). The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, introduced to Parliament on 11th May 2022, proposes a number of reforms to the planning system, including potentially repealing the 'duty to cooperate' contained in existing legislation.

5.2 At present these reforms do not impact housing need or emerging Local Plans as they are proposals (rather than legislation) and could be subject to significant change before achieving Royal Assent and becoming law.

5.3 Government advice is that authorities should get up-to-date Local Plans in place (Appendix J) and some authorities in L&L are at an advanced stage of plan preparation.

5.4 The authorities agree the Duty to Cooperate is an ongoing process, and should the amount of unmet need change significantly, the apportionment of unmet need will be jointly reviewed to assess whether it needs updating. The process for updating and maintaining this statement will be managed through ongoing joint work between the authorities.

5.5 The above apportionment (Table 3 and 4 above) is intended to be implemented through individual local plans. These figures will therefore need to be tested through each authority's Local Plan process. The authorities agree that if an authority's local plan process identifies that it is not able to provide for their own objectively assessed needs as well as any unmet need apportioned in this statement (as set out in paragraph 11b of the NPPF), the apportionment of unmet need will need to be jointly reviewed and updated as necessary. The process used for this review will be proportionate to the scale of the issue and should not cause undue delay to the preparation of Local Plans.

Appendix A - Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Land Supply, 2020 to 2031

The table below compares housing land supply to local housing need based on the Governments Standard Method.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Authority	**Local Housing Need 2020 - 2031**	**Commitments[1] projected for delivery 2020 to 2031**	**Allocations in an adopted Plan[2]**	**Emerging allocations in a draft plan[2]**	**Allowance for small site or windfall development to 2031**	**Total Projected Delivery to 2031 (B+C+D+E)**	**SHLAA Capacity to 2031[3]**	**Total Theoretical Capacity to 2031 (F+G)**
Blaby	3,751	4,467	758		240	5,465	5,408	10,873
Charnwood	12,221	7,080	1,385	7,894	640	16,999	10,529	27,528
Harborough	5,874	3,693	4,332		864	8,889	5,873	14,762
Hinckley & Bosworth	5,192	2,692	557		584	3,833	15,902	19,735
Leicester City	27,104	9,047		6,602	1,650	17,299	0	17,299
Melton	2,541	2,704	3,145		189	6,038	1,108	7,146
NW Leics	4,092	5,862	790		320	6,972	3,821	10,793
Oadby & Wigston	2,068	1,010	1,203		189	2,402	0	2,402
HMA total	62,843	36,555	12,173	14,496	4,676	67,897	42,041	109,938

[1] Includes sites under construction; with planning permission (including sites with a resolution to grant), as at 31/03/2020
[2] projected delivery up to 31/03/2031; includes allocated sites from local and neighbourhood plans
[3] To avoid duplication SHLAA sites that have planning permission or are allocated in an adopted or emerging plan have been removed from this figure

Appendix B - Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Land Supply, 2020 to 2036

The table below compares housing land supply to local housing need based on the Governments Standard Method.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Authority	**Local Housing Need 2020 - 2036**	**Commitments[1] projected for delivery 2020 to 2036**	**Allocations in an adopted Plan[2]**	**Emerging allocations in a draft plan[2]**	**Allowance for small site or windfall development to 2036**	**Total Projected Delivery to 2036 (B+C+D+E)**	**SHLAA Capacity to 2036[3]**	**Total Theoretical Capacity to 2036 (F+G)**
Blaby	5,456	4,918	984		440	6,342	18,956	25,298
Charnwood	17,776	8,820	1,990	9,024	1,040	20,874	19,938	40,812
Harborough	8,544	3,693	5,679		864	10,236	9,819	20,055
Hinckley & Bosworth	7,552	2,992	1,497		949	5,438	23,130	28,568
Leicester City	39,424	9,865		8,456	2,400	20,721	0	20,721
Melton	3,696	2,704	3,891		334	6,929	3,635	10,564
NW Leics	5,952	7,013	1,427		520	8,960	13,281	22,241
Oadby & Wigston	3,008	1,010	1,203		189	2,402	3,060	2,402
HMA total	91,408	41,015	16,671	17,480	6,736	81,902	91,819	173,721

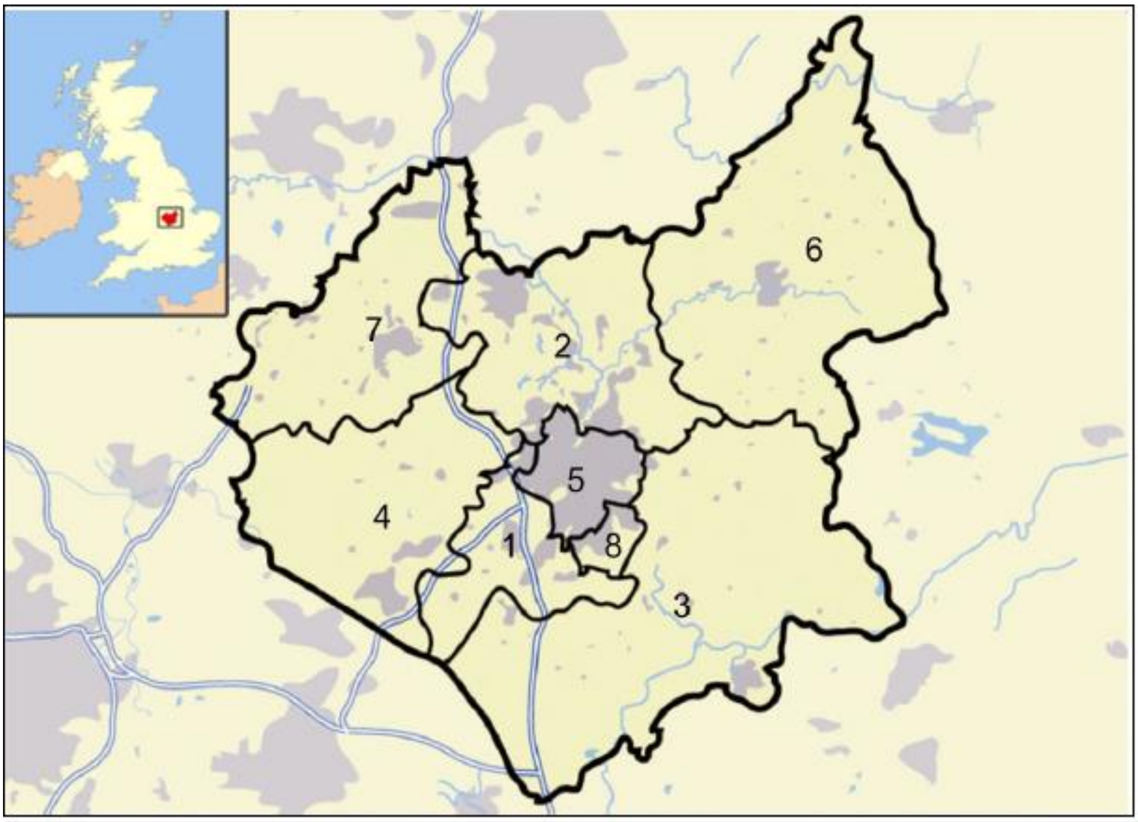
[1] Includes sites under construction; with planning permission (including sites with a resolution to grant), as at 31/03/2020
[2] projected delivery up to 31/03/2036; includes allocated sites from local and neighbourhood plans
[3] To avoid duplication SHLAA sites that have planning permission or are allocated in an adopted or emerging plan have been removed from this figure

Appendix C - Employment Demand and Supply Balnace 2021 to 2036 (excluding Strategic Warehousing)

	Need		Supply		Balance		Notes*
	B1	B2/B8 (small)	B1	B2/B8 (small)	B1	B2/B8 (small)	
Blaby	9.1	29.0	10.5	13.3	1.4	-15.7	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on permissions pipeline. Mixed permissions divided by use class. Supply at April 2020
Charnwood	7.5	35.7	15.1	66.7	7.6	31.0	2021-36 need, HENA '21. Supply based on Local Plan trajectory Exc. Loughborough Science and Enterprise Park.
Harborough	6.8	39.3	18.0	41.7	11.2	2.4	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on net permissions pipeline at April 2020
H&B	4.2	53.4	4.2	38.9	0.0	-14.5	2021-36 need, HENA '21. Supply based on Local Plan Reg19 Feb '22
Leicester	46,100 sqm (2.3 ha)	67.3	43,000 sqm (2.1 ha)	44.0	-3,100 sqm (-0.2 ha)	-23.3	2019-36 need / office supply, City EDNA '20 (sqm, converted to ha at 2.0 ratio) Industrial supply based on Local Plan Reg19 Feb '22.
Melton	2	38.1	2.6	34.4	0.6	-3.7	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on permissions and allocations pipeline. Supply at April 2020
NWL	8.9	31.8	17.1	36.5	8.2	4.7	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on permissions and allocations pipeline. Supply at April 2020
O&W	1	3.1	2.8	5.7	1.8	2.6	2021-36 need, HENA '21 . Supply based on permissions and allocations pipeline. Supply at April 2020
L&L Total	41.8	297.7	72.4	281.2	30.6	-16.5	Excludes 50 ha at Loughborough Science and Enterprise Park. Excludes -44,600 sqm offices for Leicester

Source: Various as identified in notes

Appendix D – Location and Administrative Areas



Key to Map Two

1. Blaby District Council
2. Charnwood Borough Council
3. Harborough District Council
4. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
5. Leicester City Council
6. Melton Borough Council
7. North West Leicestershire District Council
8. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Harborough District Council
Cabinet
27 July 2026

Title:	Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need (March 2026)
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	No
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Report Author:	Tess Nelson. Head of Strategic and Local Planning 07818 587750 t.nelson@harborough.gov.uk.
Portfolio Holders:	Finance, Councillor Phil King. Planning, Councillor Rosita Page
Appendix:	A. Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need (March 2026)

Summary

i. Preparation of a local plan is a statutory responsibility of the Council as a local planning authority. Plan making requires effective co-operation on cross-boundary strategic matters. Strategic warehousing is identified as such by the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and individual authorities.

ii. The report seeks approval of the Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need (SoCG, March 2026).

iii. The statement sets out the need for strategic warehouses in Leicester and Leicestershire to 2046, and the apportionment of the additional floorspace required to 2046 by District / Borough.

iv. The apportionment to Harborough District of 823,400sqm for the period 2023-2046, on a pro-rata basis, broadly accords with provision made by the Draft Harborough District Local Plan submitted for examination on the 17 April 2026. If that plan is adopted the residual, c. 179,000sqm for the 5-year period 2041-2046 will require testing through the new plan-making system.

v. This Statement of Common Ground (March 2026) replaces the previous Statement (September 2021), approved by (Harborough District Council) HDC 13 December 2021, and captures the outcomes of the further joint work set out in that earlier statement.

vi. The Statement provides evidence of ongoing joint-working across Leicester and Leicestershire. Signing the Statement strengthens the Council's position ahead of the forthcoming Local Plan examination.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need (March 2026), included at Appendix A to this report.

Reasons for Recommendations

i. To support Harborough's submitted local plan through examination, maintain effective cooperation within Leicester and Leicestershire (that authorities must fulfil) and enable other authorities to progress their emerging plans.

ii. The 2026 statement is the culmination of the commitment the Council entered into in 2021. Approving the updated Statement reaffirms this undertaking, reflecting our commitment as equal partners to a shared purpose and clear shared outcome for our communities in demonstrating that the additional floorspace required to 2046 will be met in Leicester and Leicestershire.

iii. The apportionment to the district broadly aligns with Harborough's independent evidence on an interim need position used to prepare the Local Plan and supports the amount and location of provision made in the submitted Local Plan.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide information on the Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need (March 2026). The full text of the statement is included in Appendix A.

1.2 To request that Cabinet advises Council to approve the statement. The statement references the most up-to-date cooperatively produced evidence on the needs of the strategic warehousing sector to 2046 to inform planning and plan-making across Leicester and Leicestershire.

2. Background

2.1 A statement of common ground (SoCG) is a formal written document used in the plan making process to demonstrate collaboration between local planning authorities and strategic bodies. It helps to demonstrate effective, transparent cooperation identifying agreed facts and any outstanding issues. Such statements are an important way to demonstrate that councils have cooperated effectively to address cross-boundary strategic planning matters.

2.2 The 2021 SoCG (see link Background Papers, section 6, below) dealt with matters of evidence and process. It affirmed and agreed:

- How much land/floorspace needed to be provided in Leicester and Leicestershire to meet outstanding need to 2041, based on evidence published in 2021
- The Areas of Opportunity identified in the 2021 study where extra floorspace is most likely to be located
- The next steps the authorities agreed to take to plan for the sector across Leicester and Leicestershire, including the commitment of the authorities to agreeing the distribution of large warehousing need.

2.3 The 'Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need (March 2026) presented in this report, once confirmed and agreed, will replace the earlier statement on this topic agreed in 2021.

2.4 The amount of additional land/floorspace needed in the area for strategic warehousing has recently been updated by the Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Distribution Floorspace Needs Update and Apportionment (Oct 2025) study. The study also gives strategic guidance on how this could be apportioned between the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities. The study's findings and their implications for the Draft Harborough Local Plan, submitted for examination 17 April 2026, were presented to the Council's Local Planning Advisory Panel (LPAP) on the 13 November 2025.

2.5 The 2026 Statement reflects this latest evidence and explains how the signatory authorities intend to respond to it. Its preparation has been overseen by a steering group of officers, and the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities Members Advisory Group (MAG) agreed it on the 12 February 2026 for consideration by the individual authorities.

2.6 The Statement is in the process of being considered by each of the authorities through their respective governance processes. At the time of writing the statement has been approved by the following authorities: Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

3. Details

3.1 The full text of the 2026 Statement is included at Appendix A to this report. The apportionment of Strategic Warehousing floorspace by District / Borough (Table 2 in the Appendix) is also set out in the table below in square metres (sqm). The 'Total' column shows the amount of strategic warehousing floorspace (sqm) each authority has been apportioned between 2023 and 2046:

District / Borough *	Completions + Commitments		Residual Need Apportioned		**Total**	**Apportionment incl. completions + commitments**
	Rail	Road	Rail	Road		
North West Leicestershire	-	221,100	240,000	1,093,600	**1,554,700**	**39%**
Harborough	-	257,000	-	566,400	**823,400**	**21%**
Hinckley & Bosworth	-	327,000	-	428,800	**755,800**	**19%**
Blaby	-	105,100	650,000	0	**755,100**	**19%**
Charnwood	-	0		80,500	**80,500**	**2%**
Total	-	**910,200**	**890,000**	**2,169,200**	**3,969,400**	

Source: Iceni analysis

3.2 Sections 1-3 of the Statement are standard elements for a SoCG and set out the parties involved (the partner Councils of Leicester and Leicestershire), the purpose of the Statement, and its background and context.

3.3 Section 4 is the substantive part of the Statement. It affirms matters of common agreement including;

- The authorities track record and evidence of effective joint working
- The evidence base, need and additional floorspace required to 2046, and the apportionment to boroughs / districts that authorities agree to test through Local Plan preparation. Note that the figures are for 2023/24 -2045/46 (22 years) and that Leicester City Council, Melton Borough Council and Oadby &Wigston Borough Council are apportioned zero floorspace, as these locations don't meet the requirements of the sector for proximity to the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and /or land availability.
- How NWLDC, with the highest figure, intends to respond to its apportionment in its new local plan. Equivalent sections are not included for other authorities due to the different stages they are at with their local plans.
- The status of the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI) development proposal, and the principle that the ability of this site / location to be rail-served needs to be retained and safeguarded for the future
- The challenge to accommodate the amount of new floorspace on the county's road network, in particular the Strategic Road Network (SRN), and the need to test the apportionment through each Authority's local plan-making processes (and Development Consent Order (DCO) as appropriate) with the involvement of the relevant transport authorities.

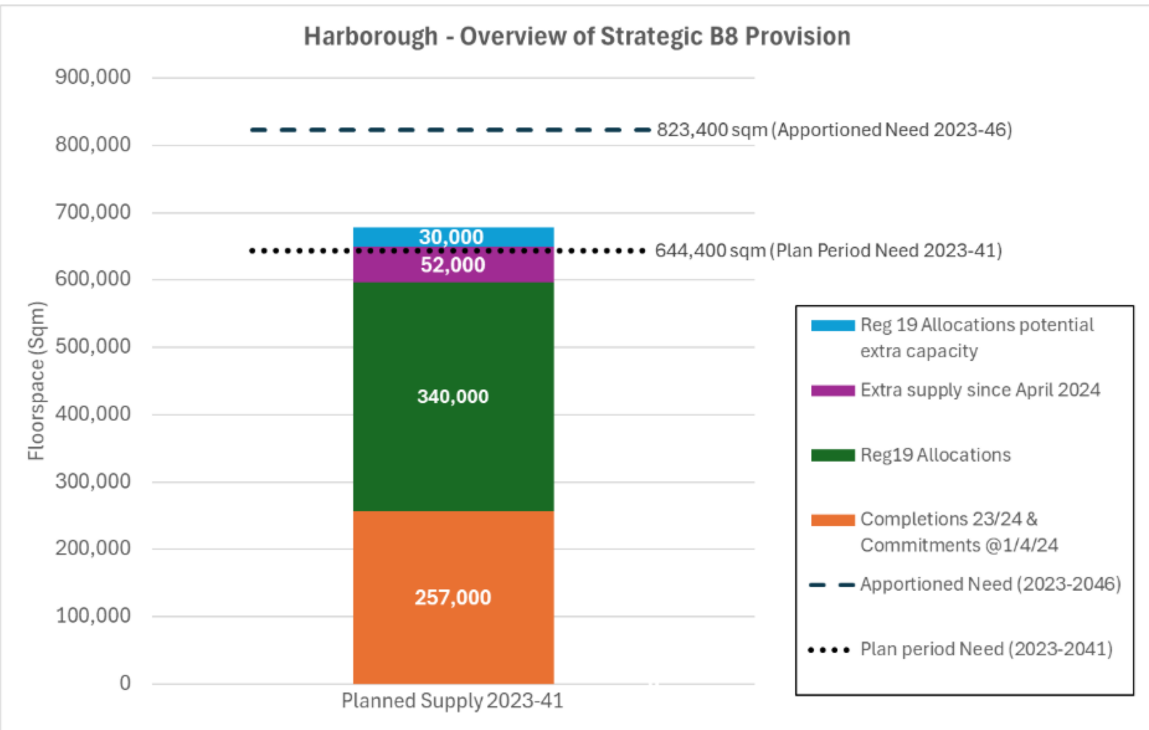
3.4 Section 5 deals with maintaining and updating the Statement and planning for future needs to 2046. It sets out the authorities' agreement to; test their respective apportionment figures (pro-rated) through their Local Plan preparation, to continue to jointly monitor progress in site allocation, consents and delivery at the Leicester and Leicestershire level (annually), update the evidence base as appropriate, and their commitment to on-going joint working on this matter.

3.5 By approving and agreeing the statement authorities will confirm their support and agreement to the approach taken by HDC, as summarised in the next section and tested through the Draft Harborough Local Plan (submitted 17 April 2026), and North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) to address the need for additional floorspace. Having such agreement in place will be helpful for the council's upcoming Local Plan examination.

Harborough Apportionment

3.6 Paragraphs 4.8-4.10 of the Statement set out the apportionment to Boroughs / Districts. Harborough's apportionment is 823,400 sqm for 2023-2046. The Draft Harborough Local Plan (as submitted 17 April 2026) covers the period to 2041. Pro-rating 823,400sqm for Harborough's shorter plan period indicates the Local Plan should provide for an additional 644,400sqm of strategic warehousing between 2023-2041, leaving a further 179,000sqm to be delivered post 2041.

3.7 The Draft Harborough Local Plan, submitted for examination in April 2026, allocates two new sites for strategic warehousing in the district. Notwithstanding that the plan was informed by interim evidence, in advance of the completion of the 2025 Study, on which the 2026 Statement is based, as outlined in HDC Strategic Warehousing Topic Paper (March 2026), the provision made by the Plan together with extra supply since April 2024 is sufficient to meet Harborough's apportionment in full to 2041. This position is summarised in Figure 5 of the Local Plan Strategic Distribution Topic Paper which will support the upcoming local plan examination. For ease of reference and context this is reproduced below:



3.8 If the Submitted Local Plan is adopted, the period after 2041 will require addressing in a subsequent local plan, prepared under the new planning system and informed by Spatial Development Strategies (SDS) and the effect of Local Government Reform.

4. Implications of Decisions

Financial

4.1 No additional costs outside of existing budgets arise from this report at present. The cost of preparing the Statement and its supporting evidence has been met by all the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities making agreed contributions.

Legal

4.2 The submitted Local Plan is required to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), in accordance with the transitional arrangements and other government guidance and requirements. This includes working effectively on cross-boundary strategic matters. The Statement helps to address this requirement.

4.3 The Government has confirmed as of 25 March 2026, the statutory Duty to Cooperate (DtC), introduced by the Localism Act 2011, is abolished for local plans in England. Notwithstanding this, the Government has been clear on the need for plan making authorities to continue to maintain collaboration, something the examining Inspectors will consider through the Test of Soundness at the forthcoming local plan examination.

Environmental Implications

4.4 The decision, in and of itself, will have no specific impact. The environmental implications of the new Local Plan are assessed within the Sustainability Appraisal report that accompanies the Local Plan.

Risk Management

4.5 Statements of Common Ground remain a key part of an authority's local plan evidence to demonstrate they have complied with the Tests of Soundness. The preparation of Statements of Common Ground is identified as a mitigation measure in the Risk Assessment section of the approved Local Development Scheme (LDS, Nov 2025) to address strategic cross boundary matters. The Statement is an appropriate risk management tool in this instance that identifies the mechanism, and the apportionment to Borough's / District's to test, to address the issue.

4.6 The Draft Local Plan is currently in the Examination stage following its submission to the Planning Inspectorate on 17 April 2026. Approving and signing the Statement helps demonstrate effective cooperation and reduces the risk of the Plan being found unsound at examination, based on the Tests of Soundness.

Equalities Impact

4.7 The decision, in and of itself, will have no specific impact. An Equalities Impact Assessment has considered the impact of the full suite of policies set out within the Local Plan, as submitted.

Data Protection

4.8 No data protection implications are associated with the recommendation.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 The alternative option is not to sign the Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Warehousing Need (March 2026). However, this would weaken the Councils position at the forthcoming examination, in terms of demonstrating effective cooperation, and could undermine the policy approach set out in the submitted Local Plan. This option is not preferred for these reasons and its potential to affect long-standing partnership working on this matter within Leicester and Leicestershire and the progress of other authority's local plans.

6. Background papers

6.1 Minutes of Cabinet meeting 29th November 2021, Report 6: Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities – Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing & Logistics, resolution ii).
https://cmis.harborough.gov.uk/cmis5/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=ZhcPULDPUDUeCkTDpl2TSWbZ6Y8a4K5DvwjCJlvkjMKFogENf3i5iQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7Ikn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPlIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5olA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d

6.2 Minutes of the Meeting of Council 13th December 2021, Recommendation from Cabinet 29/11/21, Report 5 Resolved that the Council becomes a signatory to the SoCG as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report:
https://cmis.harborough.gov.uk/cmis5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/5664/Committee/796/Default.aspx.

6.3 Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need (Sept 2021).
https://www.harborough.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9381/leicester_and_leicestershire_authorities_-_statement_of_common_ground_relating_to_strategic_warehousing_and_logistics_need_september_2021.pdf

6.4 The Draft Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 (as submitted 17 April 2026)
https://www.harborough.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8926/proposed_submission_draft_harborough_local_plan.pdf

6.5 The jointly commissioned Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Distribution Floorspace Needs Update and Apportionment (Oct 2025) study.
https://www.harborough.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9342/leicester_and_leicestershire_strategic_distribution_floorspace_needs_update_and_apportionment_october_2025.pdf

6.6 HDC Strategic Warehousing Topic Paper (March 2026).
https://www.harborough.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9422/strategic_warehousing_topic_paper_march_2026.pdf

Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing Need (March 2026)

1.0 The Leicester and Leicestershire HMA and FEMA

1.1 The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Economic Area (FEMA) covers the administrative areas of eight local planning authorities and two highways and transport authorities. The eight local planning authorities responsible for plan making are:

- Blaby District Council
- Charnwood Borough Council
- Harborough District Council
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
- Leicester City Council (Unitary)
- Melton Borough Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council, and
- Oadby & Wigston Borough Council.

1.2 The two upper tier authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire (L&L), with statutory responsibilities for highways, transport, education, social care, flooding, minerals & waste planning and public health are:

- Leicester City Council (Unitary), and
- Leicestershire County Council.

1.3 This Statement has been prepared jointly by the eight plan making authorities and Leicestershire County Council as an additional signatory given their statutory responsibilities, hereafter referred to as "the Authorities". The Map in Appendix 1 shows the location and administrative areas covered by this statement. The Housing & Economic Needs Assessment 2022 (HENA) identifies this area as the Leicester & Leicestershire HMA and FEMA.

2.0 Purpose

2.1 In accordance with Paragraph 25 of the NPPF (2024) the key strategic matters addressed in this statement are: the Duty to cooperate and joint working, the L&L strategic warehousing floorspace need to 2046 and the apportionment of strategic warehousing need up to 2046.

3.0 Background and Context

3.1 In 2021 the Authorities published Warehousing and Logistics in Leicester and Leicestershire: Managing Growth and Change (2021) which informed an agreed Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Strategic Warehousing & Logistics Need (September 2021). The 2021 SoCG set out the L&L need for strategic warehousing at the time and next steps to ensure the needs of the sector are appropriately planned for, including the following:

"The Authorities remain committed to cooperating on strategic cross boundary matters, including agreeing the distribution of large warehousing need"

3.2 This SoCG (2026) replaces the previous SoCG (2021) capturing the outcomes of the further joint work and agrees the apportionment of strategic warehousing need across L&L for further testing through plan-making. This Statement will be reconfirmed and updated as necessary.

3.3 Strategic Warehousing facilities are defined as those units with floorspace equal to or greater than 9,000 square metres (sqm) in total.

4.0 Key Strategic Matters on Which Authorities Agree

Duty to Cooperate and Joint Working

4.1 The Authorities agree there is a long track record of effective joint working on strategic matters across L&L. The authorities have continuously engaged with each other on the strategic matters set out in this Statement and through the preparation of local plans across the area. This commitment is most clearly evidenced through:

- The continued function of the L&L Members Advisory Group and Strategic Planning Group,
- The joint preparation of evidence including Warehousing & Logistics in L&L Managing Growth and Change (2021) and L&L Strategic Distribution Floorspace Need Update and Apportionment (2025),
- The agreement of a Joint Statement of Common Ground relating to strategic warehousing and logistics need (Sept 2021), and
- The preparation of this Statement.

4.2 More information and details of engagement will be set out in individual authorities' Duty to Cooperate Statements (or equivalent) that accompany local plans. Authorities will continue to work jointly on an ongoing basis.

L&L Strategic Warehousing Need to 2046

4.3 The Authorities agree the Leicester & Leicestershire: Strategic Distribution Floorspace Needs Update and Apportionment (Oct 2025) (hereafter referred to as 'the Study') is the most up-to-date cooperatively produced evidence on the needs of the strategic warehousing sector to inform planning across L&L.

4.4 Based on the Study the Authorities agree that L&L needs to provide for 3,969,400sqm of additional floorspace between 2023 and 2046 (1,349,600sqm rail-served and 2,619,800sqm road-served), after allowing for land recycling, as per Table 1 below:

Table 1: Supply-Demand Balance (2023-46) (sqm.)

	Rail-Served	Road-Served	Total
Gross Need	5,256,000		
Land Recycling	-1,286,000		
Additional Floorspace Required	1,349,600	2,619,800	3,969,400
Completions 2023/24	0	112,500	112,500
Commitments April 2024	0	797,700	797,700
Balance	1,349,600	1,709,600	3,059,200

Source: Iceni 2025

4.5 The Study has a base date of 1 April 2023. After updating the monitoring to 1 April 2025 (see Appendix 2) the Authorities agree that this updated position leaves a balance of 1,349,600 sqm at rail-served sites and 1,692,174 sqm at road-served sites to be planned for to 2046. Appendix 2 will be updated annually.

4.6 To 2046 the Study identifies a (theoretical) maximum floorspace capacity across L&L as a whole of 5,905,500sqm compared to the additional floorspace required to 2046 of 3,969,400sqm.

4.7 The Authorities intend that the additional floorspace required of 3,969,400sqm of strategic warehousing floorspace (2023 – 2046) will be met in L&L. The Authorities are not aware of any unmet need from neighbouring areas for strategic warehousing floorspace that should be accommodated in L&L.

Apportionment of Additional Floorspace Required to 2046

4.8 The Authorities agree that the Study gives strategic guidance on the distribution of future growth and provides a basis and methodology for the apportionment of need which is robust and effective. The study sets out the apportionment by District / Borough as per Table 2 below:

Table 2: Apportionment by District / Borough (Sqm)

District / Borough *	Completions + Commitments		Residual Need Apportioned		**Total**	**Apportionment incl. completions + commitments**
	Rail	Road	Rail	Road		
North West Leicestershire	-	221,100	240,000	1,093,600	**1,554,700**	**39%**
Harborough	-	257,000	-	566,400	**823,400**	**21%**
Hinckley & Bosworth	-	327,000	-	428,800	**755,800**	**19%**
Blaby	-	105,100	650,000	0	**755,100**	**19%**
Charnwood	-	0		80,500	**80,500**	**2%**
Total	**-**	**910,200**	**890,000**	**2,169,200**	**3,969,400**	

Source: Iceni analysis

* District / Borough figures are made up of figures for more than one distinct Area of Opportunity (AO), in some cases.

4.9 The Authorities agree the figures in the total column of Table 2 are the agreed apportionment of strategic warehousing floorspace need for each authority for the period 2023-2046. These figures will be tested through each Local Planning Authority's plan making process. The rail served need for Blaby would need to be tested through the DCO process (see para 4.14-4.18 below).

4.10 The authorities are preparing plans with different plan periods and agree that the figures in Table 2 will be pro-rated based on the plan period of the relevant authority. Authorities not listed in Table 2 have been apportioned zero floorspace.

NWLDC Apportionment

4.11 NWLDC is preparing a new Local Plan for the period 2023-2042. Strategic warehousing sites have been identified for allocation in the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan[1]. There are sufficient, suitable sites to deliver c756,775sqm of floorspace, meeting the pro-rata apportionment figure for the A/M42 location but not meeting the pro-rata apportionment figures for the M1 J23a & J24/A50 J1 location and for the Bardon area (M1 J22) due to planning constraints and an insufficient supply of available, suitable sites at those locations.

4.12 NWLDC's intended approach is to:

- Allocate suitable sites for strategic warehousing, as described above
- Include a criteria-based policy for proposals on unallocated sites
- Re-evaluate the position when the new Plan is reviewed[2]. This would include an assessment of a) any newly available land in the locations where there is a shortfall; and b) any updated assessment of needs.

4.13 The authorities support and agree NWLDC's approach, which equates to a supply of 12 years (2024 to 2036) based on the pro-rata apportionment figures in Table 2 above. The Authorities agree this is an appropriate way forward in the context of the challenges of planning long-term for this sector, as outlined in para 5.1 below.

Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI)

4.14 The Development Consent Order (DCO) for the HNRFI proposal, mostly located in Blaby District, was refused in March 2025. The DCO application was refused on the basis of most notably insufficient transport modelling evidence assessing the impacts at M1 J21/M69 J3: non-compliance with the road safety requirements; and the highways safety impacts on the village of Sapcote. However, the decision letter agrees that there is a need for the rail-served Proposed Development.

4.15 Whilst not undermining the scale of the issues for refusal, the Study does not dismiss this location and considers that a further application for the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) in the location could be submitted through the DCO process. The proposal could therefore still come forward within the Study period to 2046.

4.16 The Authorities agree that apart from this location and land around East Midlands Airport there are no further rail-served opportunities within the Study area. Given this and the continuing national policy support for SRFI's and the role they play in transferring freight from road to rail, the ability of this site to be rail-served needs to be retained and safeguarded for the future. Proposals for solely road-based strategic B8 floorspace through the Local Plan or speculative planning applications in this location would undermine the identified need for rail-based strategic B8 floorspace and will not be supported.

4.17 However, the Authorities agree that any fresh DCO application must overcome technical challenges, for a strategic rail-served facility meeting the definition of a SRFI, to be an appropriate approach in this location.

4.18 This Statement does not infer support from the relevant Local Authorities for a future rail-served strategic B8 proposal in this location. Each authority will respond to any proposal, through the NSIP/DCO process as appropriate.

[1] North West Leicestershire DC's Local Plan Committee 19 November 2025

[2] In accordance with NPPF (Dec 2024) Para 34 reviews should be completed no later than 5years from the adoption date of the plan.

Transport

4.19 Leicestershire County Council, as the Local Highway Authority, has raised concerns about the ability of the County's road network, and in particular the Strategic Road Network (for which National Highways is the Highway Authority), to accommodate the quantum of strategic warehousing identified. However, it does not wish to frustrate the completion of this SoCG and instead reserves it's right to pursue those concerns as appropriate if and when specific sites are brought forward through plan-making and/or as planning applications (including as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - NSIP). The other authorities note and accept the County Council's position.

4.20 The authorities agree the ability of the county's road network, and particularly the Strategic Road Network, to accommodate the quantum of need will be challenging. The figures in Table 2 will therefore need to be tested through each Authority's local plan making process (and DCO process, as appropriate) with the involvement of the relevant transport authorities.

5.0 Maintaining and Updating this Statement

Planning for Future Needs to 2046

5.1 Planning for the future needs of this sector is particularly difficult because it is dynamic and operates on a much wider scale than L&L. Opportunities for development are linked to investment in the Strategic Road Network (SRN), with often limited long-term visibility of sites and it also involves sites that come forward through the separate NSIP/DCO process. All this means it can be challenging to make extended forecasts about long-term need.

5.2 The Authorities remain committed to cooperating on a plan-led approach to meet need (as set out in para 4.4). The Authorities agree:

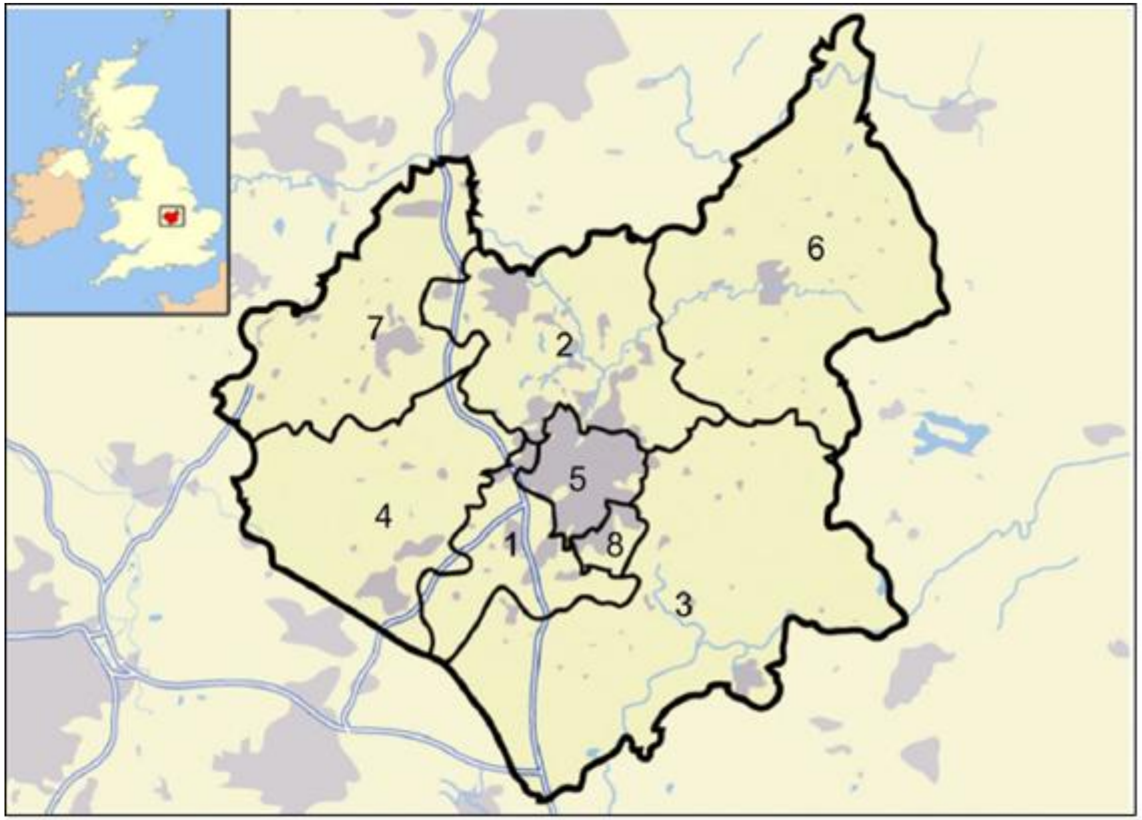
- To test their respective apportionment figures (pro-rated) through their Local Plan preparation,
- To continue to jointly monitor progress in site allocation, consents and delivery at the L&L level, annually,
- That they, or successor authorities, will review and update the L&L strategic warehousing wide need and apportionment evidence as appropriate.

5.3 A new local planning system will be introduced early in 2026 together with the introduction of Spatial Development Strategies (SDS) through which growth related to strategic matters, such as strategic warehouses, will be distributed across a geography that is yet to be determined. The formal duty to produce a SDS is expected in Spring 2026 through secondary legislation, following royal assent of the Planning and Infrastructure Act.

5.4 Government is seeking full coverage of up-to-date local plans, and the local plans scheduled for submission by 31 December 2026 are at an advanced stage of preparation. The Authorities agree that the figures set out in Table 2 (pro-rated) will be tested through each Local Authority's local plan process.

5.5 The Authorities agree the Duty to Cooperate and joint working is an ongoing process. The process for updating and maintaining this Statement is outlined in Paragraph 5.2 and will be managed through ongoing joint work between the Authorities.

Appendix 1 – Location and Administrative Areas



Key to Map Two

1. Blaby District Council
2. Charnwood Borough Council
3. Harborough District Council
4. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
5. Leicester City Council
6. Melton Borough Council
7. North West Leicestershire District Council
8. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Appendix 2 – Updated Monitoring Data

Table A: Supply-Demand Balance (2023-2046) at 1 April 2025

	Rail-Served	Road-Served	Total
Gross Need	5,256,000		
Land Recycling	-1,286,000		
Additional Floorspace Required	1,349,600	2,619,800	3,969,400
Completions 2023/24	0	112,536	112,536
Completions 2024/25	0	18,580	18,580
Commitments April 2025	0	796,510	796,510
Balance	1,349,600	1,692,174	3,041,774

Source: Iceni, updated by LPA Monitoring 2024/25.

Table B: Supply by District / Borough (2023-2046) (sqm) at 1 April 2025

District / Borough*	A	B		C		D		E		F		G	
	Total (from Table 2)	Completions 23/24		Completions 24/25		Commitments at 1 April 2025 project for delivery to 2046		Allocations in an adopted Plan #		Emerging allocations in a Reg19 plan #		Balance	
		Rail	Road	Rail	Road	Rail	Road	Rail	Road	Rail	Road	Rail	Road
NWLDC	1,554,700	0	0	0	18,580	0	203,047	0	0	0	0	240,000	1,093,073
HDC	823,400	0	59,342	0	0	0	197,696	0	0	0	340,000	0	226,362
H&BBC	755,800	0	53,194	0	0	0	273,767	0	0	0	0	0	428,839
BDC	755,100	0	0	0	0	0	122,000	0	0	0	0	650,000	-16,900
CBC	80,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80,500
Leicester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MBC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O&WBC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,969,400	0	112,536	0	18,580	0	796,510	0	0	0	340,000	890,000	1,811,874

* District / Borough figures are made up of figures for more than one distinct Area of Opportunity (AO), in some cases.

Without planning consent

Harborough District Council

Report to the Cabinet

27 July 2026

DISTRICT OF HARBOROUGH

Title:	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Progress Update
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	Yes
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Report Author:	David Atkinson - Director of Planning, Tess Nelson - Head of Strategic and Local Planning, and Wayne Dyer – Interim Senior Planning Officer
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Mrs R Page – Portfolio Holder for Planning
Appendices:	Appendix 1: Draft CIL Charging Zones (intended to support subsequent public consultation on a draft CIL Charging Schedule)

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on progress towards the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in accordance with the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended). It summarises the completion of the key evidence base, including the viability assessment and infrastructure funding gap analysis, which underpin proposed charging rates and charging zones. The report sets out progress made to date on the development of a Draft CIL Charging Schedule for members to note. It also seeks approval for officers to move to the next stage in CIL preparatory work to prepare an Infrastructure Funding Gap Analysis which will form a key part of the evidence base that will inform consultation on the Draft CIL Charging Schedule.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note progress to date on developing a Draft CIL Charging Schedule and approve the proposed Charging Zones. (See map in Appendix).
2. Approve officers (with the necessary technical input and advice) to move to the next stage in CIL preparation work – to prepare an Infrastructure Funding Gap Analysis as a key part of the evidence base to move forward to consultation on CIL.

Reasons for Recommendations

- To acknowledge the progress made to date in the preparation of a CIL Charging Schedule, including the identification of proposed charging zones informed by viability evidence.
- To enable the Council to progress to the next stage of CIL preparation by undertaking an Infrastructure Funding Gap Analysis, which will form a key part of the evidence base to justify the need for CIL.
- To progress technical evidence on funding gap to ensure that any future decision on the introduction of CIL is informed by a robust and proportionate evidence base that identifies infrastructure requirements, available funding sources and any funding shortfall associated with planned growth.
- To support the delivery of the Local Plan and wider corporate priorities by exploring mechanisms to secure funding for infrastructure needed to accommodate growth and create sustainable communities.
- To ensure that the Council's approach to CIL remains evidence-led, legally compliant and informed by appropriate technical advice and assessment.
- To demonstrate the Council's commitment to managing growth responsibly by ensuring that infrastructure funding mechanisms are transparent, equitable, evidence-led and aligned with the district's long-term planning and investment priorities.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of technical evidence work to progress to formal consultation on the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and a decision to progress to examination and adoption in due course. Officers with technical support have been progressing baseline evidence gathering towards the introduction of a CIL as part of its wider approach to planning for and supporting sustainable growth funding across the district. If introduced, CIL will provide the Council with an additional mechanism for securing financial contributions from qualifying development to help fund strategic infrastructure needed to support the planned growth in new homes and employment opportunities.

1.2. Consultation on a draft CIL Charging Schedule is a statutory step in the process that requires the Council to demonstrate that proposed levy rates are defensible and that an appropriate balance can be struck between the need to fund infrastructure and the viability of development. Progress has been made with the supporting evidence base, including a draft CIL Viability Report which considers what charges could be viable and recent updates to the Infrastructure Schedule and Infrastructure Delivery Plan which identifies the range of infrastructure projects necessary to support planned growth as proposed in the Local Plan. A key element of the evidence to go to consultation is whether a gap in funding exists to make the case for progressing CIL. This gap assessment is informed by project specific evidence in the Infrastructure Schedule and enables the Council to move to the next stage and consult on the proposed CIL charges and the associated geographies proposed for the charges.

2. Background

2.1. CIL is a statutory charge on new development, established under the Planning Act 2008 and governed by the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended). It provides a transparent and consistent mechanism for local planning authorities to secure financial contributions from developers towards infrastructure necessary to support growth.

2.2. CIL enables authorities to raise funds for a broad range of infrastructure projects required to mitigate the impacts of development and promote sustainable communities. This includes essential infrastructure such as schools and nurseries, transport networks (roads, public transport, and cycling routes), health facilities, and community amenities including parks, play areas, and open spaces.

2.3. The levy is calculated based on the size, type, and location of new development and is payable upon commencement of development. The Council collects these contributions and allocates funds according to an adopted CIL Charging Schedule, informed by robust evidence on infrastructure needs and viability.

2.4. In accordance with the CIL Regulations, a proportion of levy receipts must be passed to local parish and town councils where development occurs to enable them to fund local infrastructure and community projects.

2.5. CIL operates alongside other developer contribution mechanisms, notably Section 106 agreements, which continue to be used for site-specific mitigation measures. Unlike Section 106, which involves negotiated agreements, CIL offers a fixed, non-negotiable charge, providing greater certainty and efficiency in securing infrastructure funding.

2.6. The use of CIL is supported by national planning policy, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (latest adopted edition, December 2024: and it should be noted that it is expected that a fresh version of the NPPF will be published prior to the Cabinet meeting, however, it is not anticipated that changes will be made to the national approach to CIL in any new NPPF). The NPPF promotes the use of planning obligations and community infrastructure levies to help deliver infrastructure to support development. At the local level, the Council's Local Plan sets out strategic priorities and infrastructure requirements, providing the policy basis for CIL's role in funding sustainable growth.

Interaction Between CIL, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the Local Plan

2.7 CIL is intrinsically linked to both national and local planning policy frameworks, serving as a key mechanism to deliver the infrastructure needed to support sustainable development.

2.8 At the national level, the NPPF provides clear guidance on the use of developer contributions to ensure that new development is accompanied by the necessary infrastructure to make it acceptable in planning terms. The NPPF encourages local planning authorities to use planning obligations, including CIL, , to secure contributions from developers towards infrastructure provision. It promotes transparency, fairness, and consistency in how these contributions are sought, with an emphasis on ensuring that the cumulative impact of development is effectively mitigated.

2.9 The NPPF also stresses the importance of viability assessments in setting developer contributions, ensuring that levies such as CIL do not undermine the deliverability of development. This principle guides the preparation of CIL Charging Schedules, which must be supported by robust evidence on development viability alongside identified infrastructure needs.

2.10 At the local level, the Council's Local Plan sets out the strategic vision, growth targets, and infrastructure requirements for the district. It identifies key priorities such as housing delivery, economic development, transport improvements, and community facilities. The Local Plan's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) informs the types and scale of infrastructure projects necessary to support this growth.

2.11 CIL is designed to complement the Local Plan by providing a predictable and consistent source of funding for the delivery of this infrastructure. The Charging Schedule for CIL is prepared based on evidence gathered during the Local Plan process, including viability testing and consultation. This ensures that CIL rates reflect the economic realities of the district's development market and align with the Council's infrastructure priorities.

2.12 Through this alignment, CIL supports the soundness and deliverability of the Local Plan. It provides a framework for securing developer contributions that are transparent, equitable, and sufficient to fund the infrastructure needed to accommodate new development. This integrated approach helps to promote sustainable communities by ensuring that infrastructure growth keeps pace with housing and employment growth, contributing to improved quality of life and economic resilience.

2.13 In summary, the relationship between CIL, the NPPF, and the Local Plan is fundamental to delivering sustainable development. CIL acts as a vital funding tool that, when aligned with national policy and local planning objectives, ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is planned for and delivered alongside new development.

Comparison of the CIL and Section 106 Agreements

2.14 CIL and Section 106 (S106) agreements are the two primary mechanisms through which local planning authorities secure developer contributions to fund infrastructure necessary to support new development. While both tools aim to mitigate the impacts of development, they operate in distinct ways and serve complementary functions within the planning system.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

2.15 CIL is a fixed, non-negotiable charge levied on new development based on a predetermined rate set out in an adopted Charging Schedule. The levy is calculated according to the size, type, and location of development, providing certainty and transparency to developers and the Council alike. Funds collected through CIL are pooled centrally and can be allocated towards a wide range of infrastructure projects that benefit the broader community, including transport, education, health, and recreational facilities.

2.16 CIL's key advantages include its predictable revenue stream, the ability to pool funds across multiple developments, and administrative efficiency. However, CIL cannot be used to address site-specific mitigation requirements directly related to an individual development.

Section 106 Agreements

2.17 S106 agreements, derived from the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, are legally binding agreements negotiated on a case-by-case basis between developers and the local planning authority. These agreements are primarily used to secure site-specific mitigation measures required to make a particular development acceptable in planning terms. Examples include affordable housing provision, highway improvements directly affecting the development, or bespoke community facilities.

2.18 Unlike CIL, S106 contributions are tailored to individual developments and cannot be pooled for wider infrastructure projects. The negotiation process can be complex and time-consuming, and the scope of contributions is narrower.

Using CIL and Section 106 in tandem

2.19 CIL and Section 106 agreements are designed to operate alongside each other, with distinct but complementary roles. CIL provides a broad funding mechanism for infrastructure needed to support overall growth, while Section 106 agreements address specific impacts of individual developments.

2.20 In practice, CIL funds strategic, district-wide infrastructure, such as major transport schemes or new schools, while reserving Section 106 agreements for site-specific requirements, including localised highway works. This approach allows for more efficient and transparent funding arrangements while ensuring that both strategic and site-specific infrastructure needs are met.

2.21 The CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) set rules to make sure that developers are not charged twice for the same infrastructure requirements when both CIL and S106 agreements are charged. Simply, if CIL is being collected to contribute to certain types of strategic infrastructure (such as major transport projects or secondary schools) then S106 agreements cannot be used to pay for the same projects. The regulations clearly explain that S106 contributions must be directly related to the specific development and should only cover things that are not already paid for through CIL (such as on-site play space or immediate junction improvements). This helps avoid confusion and ensures that money collected from developers is used fairly and transparently.

3. Summary of Emerging Viability Findings & Proposed Charging Zones

3.1. Viability consultants Aspinall Verdi have prepared a draft CIL Viability Assessment as part of the evidence base for the introduction of CIL. This part of the evidence base seeks to establish whether there is sufficient viability across the district to support the introduction of a CIL and, if so, to identify potential charging rates and charging zones.

3.2. The assessment has tested a range of residential and commercial development typologies, taking account of the cumulative impact of emerging Local Plan policies, affordable housing requirements, infrastructure contributions, build costs and other development costs. The purpose of the work has been to determine whether there is sufficient viability headroom to support a CIL charge whilst maintaining the deliverability of development. Stakeholder engagement with land promoters, developers and agents has taken place to inform the cost and value assumptions made.

3.3. The draft viability evidence concludes that there is potential to introduce a differential CIL charging structure across the district for residential development based on variations in local market values and development viability. In accordance with national guidance, which permits differential charging rates, where justified, by evidence, the assessment recommends the establishment of three geographical charging zones. These are shown on the Charging Zones Plan at Appendix 1.

3.4. The proposed charging zones comprise a Higher Value Zone (Billesdon & Tilton, Nevill, Broughton Astley South & Leire and Dunton wards) and medium value zone (Thurnby and Houghton, Glen, Kibworths, Great Bowden & Arden, Little Bowden, Welland, Logan, Lubenham, Bosworth, Misterton and Ullesthorpe wards) and a Lower Value Zone – Broughton Astley Primethorpe & Sutton, Fleckney, Lutterworth East and Lutterworth West wards).

3.5. The Higher Value Zone is considered to have the strongest residential sales values and the greatest capacity to support a CIL charge whilst continuing to accommodate Local Plan policy requirements, including affordable housing and other development costs. These areas demonstrated the highest level of viability headroom and therefore the greatest potential to contribute towards infrastructure funding through CIL.

3.6. The Medium Value Zone demonstrates moderate development viability, with sufficient capacity in certain residential development typologies to support a levy, particularly on larger greenfield developments. Whilst viability margins are considered generally lower than those identified within the Higher Value Zone, the evidence suggests that development in these areas could support an appropriately balanced level of CIL charging.

3.7. The Lower Value Zone was found to have the most limited development viability across the district. Residential values are generally lower and viability margins more constrained once development costs, policy requirements and developer returns were taken into account. Consequently, these areas demonstrated a more limited capacity to support CIL without potentially affecting development viability and delivery.

3.8. The draft viability assessment indicates that the strongest capacity to support a levy exists within higher value residential markets and larger greenfield developments. Conversely, brownfield developments, specialist residential accommodation and most commercial development typologies demonstrate limited or no capacity to support a CIL charge.

3.9. The assessment further recommends that major strategic allocations, such as Land South of Gartree Road, or North of Market Harborough, within the emerging Local Plan should be considered separately from any standard CIL charging regime. This reflects the fact that such developments are expected to deliver, or make substantial contributions towards, significant, on site, site-specific infrastructure required to mitigate their impacts and support their delivery including new roads and junction improvements, education provision, green infrastructure and other strategic infrastructure directly related to the development.

3.10. The draft viability evidence indicates that applying a standard CIL charge in addition to these substantial site-specific infrastructure obligations could adversely affect the viability and deliverability of strategic sites. National Planning Practice Guidance recognises that low or nil CIL rates may be appropriate where strategic developments are already expected to make significant infrastructure contributions through planning obligations. Consequently, the assessment suggests that infrastructure requirements associated with major strategic allocations should continue to be secured primarily through Section 106 agreements, enabling infrastructure packages to be tailored to the specific circumstances and requirements of individual sites whilst avoiding the risk of placing an undue cumulative burden on development.

3.11. Overall, the viability work undertaken to date provides evidence that a CIL Charging Schedule could generate additional funding towards infrastructure required to support planned growth, whilst maintaining an appropriate balance between infrastructure funding and development viability. The proposed zoning approach reflects the requirement within national policy and guidance to ensure that any differential rates are supported by appropriate evidence and are based on identifiable differences in development viability across the district.

3.12. Members should note, however, that the draft viability assessment represents only one component of the evidence base required to support the introduction of CIL. The proposed charging zones and any associated charging rates should therefore be regarded as indicative at this stage and not as final yet for consultation.

3.13. Before a Draft Charging Schedule can be prepared for consultation, further work is required to complete an Infrastructure Funding Gap Analysis (as set out below in Section 4). Accordingly, whilst the proposed charging zones shown at Appendix 1 provide an evidence-based framework for progressing CIL preparation work, both the charging zones and associated rates will be subject to further review and refinement before any Draft Charging Schedule is presented to Cabinet for members consideration and subsequently for public consultation and then independent examination.

4. Making the Case for CIL - Progressing the Gap Funding Analysis

4.1. Cabinet approval is sought for officers (with the necessary technical input and advice) to prepare an Infrastructure Funding Gap Analysis. The Infrastructure Funding Gap Analysis is a key element of the evidence base required to progress the CIL to consultation and independent examination. National guidance requires charging authorities to demonstrate a genuine infrastructure funding need by identifying the infrastructure required to support planned growth, estimating associated costs, considering alternative funding sources, and evidencing an aggregate funding gap. A significant funding gap is generally accepted as sufficient justification for the introduction of CIL.

4.2. The purpose of the Infrastructure Funding Gap Analysis is to:

- Identify the infrastructure required to support planned growth, drawing on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).
- Establish the estimated cost of delivering that infrastructure.
- Identify known and anticipated funding sources, including Government grants, utility provider investment, Section 106 contributions, Council funding and other external funding streams.
- Quantify the residual funding gap that CIL could contribute towards addressing.

4.3. The Gap Analysis forms part of the wider evidence base alongside the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (which identifies the infrastructure projects required to support planned growth including costs), the CIL viability assessment (which tests whether developers can still deliver schemes on which CIL is to be charged) and the Draft Charging Schedule (which sets the proposed CIL rates).

4.4. The gap analysis draws on the latest Infrastructure Schedule and IDP and will present infrastructure requirements by category, together with estimated costs, delivery agencies and delivery timescales, where available. As infrastructure projects are at different stages of development, the level of cost certainty will vary. The report will therefore identify the confidence level associated with individual project costs where appropriate.

4.5. The assessment will also identify known and anticipated funding streams and distinguish between secured, expected and potential funding sources. This approach reflects accepted examination practice and provides a transparent assessment of funding availability.

4.6. Estimated CIL income over the plan period will be forecast and compared against the identified infrastructure funding gap. It is common for the overall funding gap to substantially exceed forecast CIL receipts, demonstrating that CIL will make a proportionate contribution towards infrastructure delivery rather than fully fund all requirements. This is generally regarded by examiners as supporting the justification for charging CIL.

4.7. Infrastructure costs, project scopes and funding sources will continue to evolve as projects are developed, funding opportunities emerge, and infrastructure providers update their investment programmes. Consequently, the Infrastructure Schedule and associated funding assumptions will require periodic review and updating.

4.8. The identification of an infrastructure funding gap is neither unusual nor unexpected. National planning policy recognises that infrastructure funding requirements frequently exceed confirmed funding at the plan-making stage, with additional funding expected to come forward through a combination of CIL, Section 106 and Section 278 agreements, Government funding programmes, infrastructure provider investment and other public and private sector sources.

4.9. Notwithstanding this the emerging information is indicating the likelihood of an infrastructure funding gap that significantly exceeds anticipated CIL income. The Funding Gap Analysis, together with the Viability Assessment, will provide an appropriate and proportionate evidence base to support publication of the Draft CIL Charging Schedule and Charging Zones for Cabinet's consideration, subsequent statutory consultation, followed by progression to independent examination in due course.

5. Programme

5.1. Subject to Cabinet approval to progress with the Gap Funding Analysis the Draft Charging Schedule and Charging Zones, as presented in draft, will be presented to Cabinet in September for approval to progress to public consultation. A programme will also be set out for the publication of the consultation, analysis of consultation responses and independent examination. The overall timeframe is anticipated to be around 10 months from start of the public consultation to the adoption and implementation of a CIL Charging Schedule, subject to examiner appointment, examination progress and necessary Cabinet approvals being in place.

6. Implications of Decisions

Financial

6.1 The ongoing preparation of technical evidence to support the setting up of CIL (including further gap analysis and reviews of the CIL viability) has to date been funded from existing Strategic Planning Service budgets. The Council's approved 2026/27 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy includes a revenue provision of £300,000 for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)[1] to support the establishment and implementation of the CIL. This allocation is considered sufficient to progress the remaining stages of the CIL process, including finalising the gap analysis, progressing consultation, examination and implementation. Should additional resources be required, a further funding request would be brought forward in accordance with the Council's Constitution and financial procedures.

Legal

6.2 The power to charge a CIL was introduced by the Planning Act 2008, with detailed provisions set out in the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended). These regulations govern the process for setting, charging, and collecting the levy, as well as liability for payment. The Council must strictly adhere to these regulations throughout the preparation, implementation, and ongoing administration of CIL.

6.3 In particular, the Council must ensure that the draft Charging Schedule is based on “appropriate available evidence” in accordance with Regulation 14, including transparent and proportionate viability assessments. This requires the viability evidence to be robust, up to date, and subject to meaningful engagement with stakeholders, including developers and infrastructure providers.

6.3 The statutory consultation requirements under Regulations 15 to 17, must also be met in full. Any defects in any future consultation process, or a failure to publish the required documentation, may give rise to legal challenge, by way of judicial review.

6.4 Importantly, the Council can only adopt a CIL Charging Schedule where it is demonstrated, through consultation and independent examination, that the proposal is supported by appropriate and robust evidence, including detailed viability assessments. The Gap Analysis report will form a key component of this evidence.

6.5 Approval to progress the Gap Analysis report, which will support progression to publish the Draft Charging Schedule and charging zones for consultation, does not commit the Council to the adoption of CIL. Rather, it enables the Council to progress the next stage of the statutory process with a full suite of evidence on costs and funding, as well as viability, allowing stakeholders to comment on the proposed charging rates and zones before the responses are considered and any necessary amendments made. Any final CIL Charging Schedule would subsequently be subject to independent examination before being presented to the Council for a decision on adoption.

6.6 Once adopted, the interaction between CIL and Section 106 planning obligations will require careful management to ensure compliance with the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) and to avoid the risk of "double charging" developers for the same infrastructure. Regulation 122 requires that Section 106 obligations are only sought where they are necessary to make a development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development, and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. Once CIL is adopted, it is intended to fund a range of strategic infrastructure required to support growth across the district, while Section 106 agreements will continue to be used to secure site-specific mitigation measures, affordable housing and other obligations that are necessary to address the direct impacts of a particular development. The Council will therefore need to

[1] Cabinet: January 2026, Agenda Item 8, Page 67 / Council February 2026, Agenda Item 7, Appendix 1, Page 31

maintain clear governance and guidance on the respective roles of CIL and Section 106 to ensure transparency, consistency and compliance with the statutory framework. The CIL viability assessment recommends that strategic allocations are not subject to CIL and instead continue to contribute through Section 106 planning obligations. This reflects the significant infrastructure and affordable housing requirements already expected from such developments and recognises that Section 106 provides a more effective mechanism for securing and phasing site-specific mitigation and infrastructure. Applying CIL to strategic sites could reduce development viability and potentially compromise the delivery of infrastructure necessary to support growth and implement the Local Plan.

6.7 Taken together, these requirements ensure that a draft CIL Charging Schedule is prepared in a lawful, transparent, and procedurally robust manner.

Environmental Implications

6.7 CIL provides a mechanism through which contributions arising from development can be used to address environmental pressures and infrastructure requirements associated with growth. The allocation of CIL receipts will support the delivery of sustainable development objectives and contribute towards the implementation of policies contained within the adopted Local Plan, the emerging Local Plan, and the Council's Corporate Plan. Investments in environmental projects including green and blue infrastructure are outlined in the Infrastructure Schedule evidence to support the implementation of CIL.

Risk Management

6.8 There are no immediate risks to the Council in agreeing to progress with further gap funding analysis or subsequently to consult on the Draft CIL Charging Schedule CIL. In fact the consultation will provide information from the development industry which will be informative. Once adopted and operational ongoing oversight will be required to manage the potential for legal challenges related to compliance with statutory procedures.

Equalities Impact

6.9 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to assess the likely effects of introducing the Draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule on people with protected characteristics and other vulnerable groups. The assessment concludes that the introduction of CIL is expected to have an overall positive or neutral impact by helping to secure funding for infrastructure that supports sustainable and inclusive communities, including transport, education, healthcare, community facilities, open space and green infrastructure. The CIL rates to be set out in the Draft Charging Schedule will be set to strike an appropriate balance between securing infrastructure funding and maintaining the viability and deliverability of development, including affordable housing, specialist residential accommodation and other development that may be particularly relevant to protected characteristic groups.

6.10 The principal equality considerations relate to the implementation of CIL rather than the Charging Schedule itself. These will be addressed through an accessible public consultation process, ongoing review of consultation responses and continued monitoring of the effects of CIL on development delivery. Equality considerations will also be incorporated into decisions on the allocation of CIL funding, with project-level

Equality Impact Assessments undertaken where appropriate to ensure that infrastructure investment advances equality of opportunity and supports the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

Data Protection

6.11 Data protection will be incorporated into the governance and administration of the CIL from its adoption and operation. The operation of CIL requires the processing of personal and commercially sensitive information relating to developers, landowners, liable parties and CIL payments. Appropriate governance arrangements, clearly defined data management processes and compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 will ensure that personal data is processed lawfully, securely and transparently.

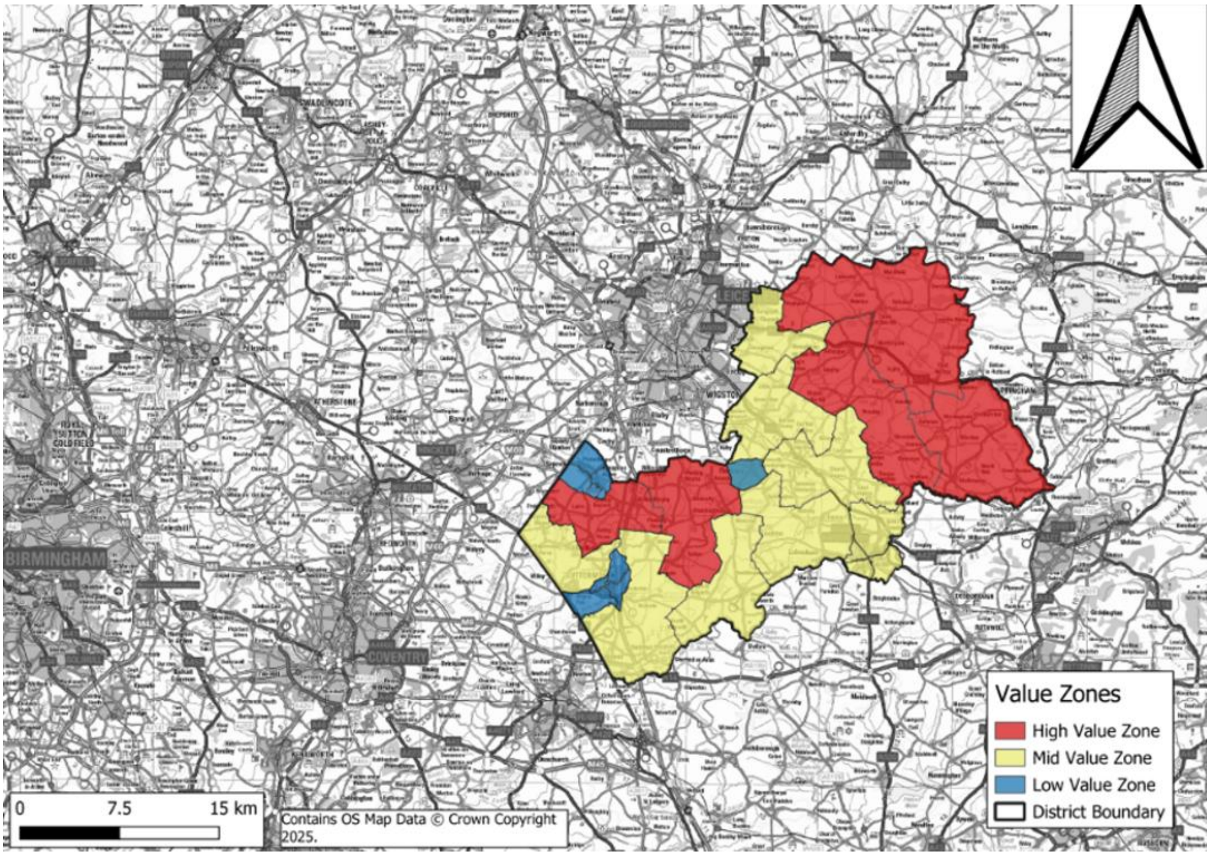
7. Alternative Options Considered

7.1 Following the presentation of the outcomes of the Gap Analysis Report, associated proposed CIL Charging rates, (as set out in a future Draft Charging Schedule), and the Charging Zones, Cabinet could choose not to approve the publication of the Draft CIL Charging Schedule for public consultation in the autumn. However, this would delay progression to the next stages of the statutory process, including consideration of consultation responses, submission for independent examination and, ultimately, a decision to adopt a CIL Charging Schedule. Delaying implementation would postpone the Council's ability to secure CIL receipts from eligible development and would reduce the opportunity to generate additional funding towards the infrastructure required to support planned growth across the district. It could also negatively affect the progression of the new local plan to adoption. Continued reliance on Section 106 planning obligations alone would limit the Council's ability to secure contributions from certain forms of development and would reduce the flexibility to fund strategic infrastructure that supports sustainable development and the delivery of the Local Plan. For these reasons this option is not recommended.

8. Background papers

8.1 Further background information on CIL can be found in National Planning Practice Guidance Community Infrastructure Levy - GOV.UK.

Appendix 1: Draft CIL Charging Zones (intended to support subsequent public consultation on a draft CIL Charging Schedule)



Harborough District Council
Cabinet
27 July 2026

Title:	Strategic Landholding – Project Scope
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	No
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Report Author:	Cat Hartley – Director of Communities and Wellbeing
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Simon Whelband - Strategy Portfolio and Leader of the Council
Appendices:	None

Summary

This report provides a modified and refined scope for the use of the strategically acquired land North of Great Bowden.

It seeks approval for the revised scope and to enable officers to progress development of projects in line with the project plan, which will be amended should the recommendation be agreed.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree the revised project scope for the Council's strategic landholding to the North of Great Bowden.

Reasons for Recommendations

To deliver the priorities of the new Administration and to enable projects to be progressed.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To set out a revised project scope for the strategic landholding to the North of Great Bowden, and to seek Cabinet approval to enable project work to be taken forward.

2. Background

2.1 In 2025 the Council acquired 130 acres of land to the north of Market Harborough and Great Bowden. This purchase of land was undertaken for two primary reasons:

- To enable the Council to ensure that land was available for a potential waste and recycling service depot, should it be needed. This was necessary to enable a robust and best-value procurement exercise to be undertaken for the new Environmental Services Contract, due to commence in April 2027. This procurement is currently underway.
- To unlock a nature restoration project of regional and national significance. South Leicestershire contains some of the most heavily modified and nature depleted areas in lowland England, and this has already been recognised through the work that the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (the Trust) has been undertaking with the adjacent James Adler Nature Reserve.

2.2 This provides a very high-level summary, and the full detail of the objectives and priorities is contained within the Land Purchase Business Case.

2.3 Following the land purchase, work was undertaken with the key partners to establish a Project Vision – those being the Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust, East Mercia River Trust, Market Harborough & Bowden's charity and Anglian Water. The vision was agreed by Cabinet in September 2025.

2.4 Within the business case for the land acquisition, in addition to the development of a new environmental services depot, a number of other uses were considered for further development. The only one which was subject to a formal decision was the Rewilding Project, with support from Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust and other partners.

2.5 In April 2026, a motion was carried at a full Council meeting to replace the then administration, with a new Conservative administration lead by Cllr Whelband. Following this the new Administration have been giving careful thought to their strategic priorities across all areas of council business, including this project.

3. Details

3.1 As set out above the new Administration have been considering their strategic priorities including the preferred use of the three lots of land now in the council's ownership. Discussions have taken place with officers, the Wildlife Trust, and the new Administration, to ensure that any decisions made are well-informed. These discussions have enabled a preferred way forward to be reached.

3.2 The new Administration continue to be supportive of the Rewilding Project, however a revised project scope for the three lots of land is considered necessary prior to finalisation of the outline project business case. In considering the revised scope the following has been taken into account:

- Local Government Reorganisation – the council is likely to be sovereign for approximately only a further 20 months, before the vesting day for the new Unitary Authority. This means that is more important than ever to be clear on what can and cannot feasibly be delivered within the current resources and within this timescale.

- Budgets – there is currently no established budget for project delivery. Large strategic development, such as for example a country park, would require significant capital funding.
- Other uses –the authority has been working to identify a suitable site for increased burial capacity for the Market Harborough area, as the Northampton Road Cemetery is rapidly approaching capacity. Whilst a number of sites are being considered, these are by no means certain at this stage, and it would not be prudent to discount any land within the council's ownership.

3.3 Taking this into account, it is considered appropriate to reduce the scale of the rewilding area to predominantly Lot 3, and to reduce the scale and ambition of the potential projects for Lots 1 and 2. This will enable the continued support of the Rewilding Project, whilst at the same time being able to deliver a more diverse range of provision within a potentially shorter timescale.

3.4 It will also ensure that the council can continue to demonstrate commitment to those partners who have provided support for the Rewilding Project.

3.5 Therefore this report seeks approval for a new project scope as follows:

- Lot 1 – Potential cemetery and informal public open space (such as a reflective garden).
- Lot 2 – Potential delivery of a new waste transfer depot (pending planning permission), potential alternative cemetery site and, with the rest of the land to be retained for initial grazing to support the agricultural community and then eventually any further uses required by the authority.
- Lot 3 – Investigate the opportunity of a lease to a suitable third party for rewilding to improve the ecology and support nature recovery in the area.

3.6 Should this revised scope be agreed, the draft business case will be finalised to ensure that project delivery can continue in respect of the Rewilding Project and commence in respect of the other elements. Project plans will be put in place for each lot where required, recognising that some elements such as the new depot are already in delivery.

3.7 The council will continue to work in partnership with the organisations set out above, with residents, and with volunteers, to ensure delivery of the Rewilding Project, both in this location and to the West of the district.

4. Implications of Decisions

Financial

4.1 There is an existing budget of £50,000 which is in place to undertake maintenance (only) associated with the land holding. In addition, there is also a dedicated project officer, employed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, and funded via external funding.

4.2 This budget and resource is considered adequate for the immediate next steps of finalising the business case and continuing the Rewilding Project on Lot 3.

4.3 Further resource and budget requirements will be considered through the business case.

Legal

4.4 This report seeks approval of a revised strategic project scope only and does not itself authorise the implementation of the individual projects. Subject to the Council having the necessary statutory powers to pursue the revised uses of land, any future implementation, including the grant of any lease or other interest in land and any other legal agreements required to facilitate the proposals, will be subject to separate legal advice and the Council's decision-making processes where appropriate.

Furthermore, the development of a new environmental services depot, together with a number of other uses to be considered for further development would need to be carefully thought through to ensure that they would be line with the Council's development plan and national planning policies.

In addition, it should be noted that the delivery of a new project scope following grant of approval would not be automatic due to the need to obtain the relevant planning consents and licences. The relevant consents even where granted, could be subject to legal challenge, which could add not just to the delay in delivery of the new project scope but also increase in the costs of delivery.

Also, with regards to the delivery of the projects listed for Lot 2, constraints such as whether the waste to be delivered would be toxic waste could impact on whether the other proposed uses would be acceptable in planning terms for delivery within the same Lot 2.

Environmental Implications

4.5 There are no environmental impacts directly associated with this report, as it is strategic in nature. The environmental impacts of each project will be carefully assessed as part of the project management framework.

Risk Management

4.6 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report. Individual projects will require risk assessments to be undertaken prior to their agreement an commencement.

Equalities Impact

4.7 No equality impacts have been identified as part of this report.

Data Protection

4.8 There are no direct data protection implications arising from this report.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 The alternative option would be to continuing the delivery of the rewilding project across all 3 lots, and the potential new waste depot on part of lot 2. This would require the council to continue to provide significant amounts of staffing resource and to invest significant amounts of money to meet the original aspiration of a country park.

6. Background papers

Report to Cabinet 16th September 2025	Rewilding Harborough
Presentation to Council 13th October 2025	Rewilding Project Update
Report to Cabinet 2nd March 2026	Rewilding Harborough

Harborough District Council
Cabinet
27 July 2026

Title:	Food Waste Service – Update on roll out date
Status:	Key Decision
Key Decision:	Yes
Report Author:	Russell Smith Head of Environmental Service and Community Safety
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr D Page Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder
Appendix:	Appendix A – Environment Wheel

Summary

Cabinet approval was given on the 23 March 2026, for the commencement of a weekly food waste collection service from November 2026 - aligning the launch with the full delivery of the new food waste vehicle fleet.

i. The Council has been notified that the delivery of the new food waste fleet has now been delayed due to production issues.
ii. Therefore approval is sought for a new start date of April 1st 2027 to align with the commencement of the new Environmental Services Contract.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the change in date for the commencement of a weekly food waste collection service from 3rd November 2026 to 1st April 2027, which will allow better alignment with the confirmed delivery of the new food-waste vehicle fleet.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. Introducing a weekly food-waste collection service is a mandatory requirement in line with the National Simpler Recycling reform legislation and enables the authority to improve recycling performance, reduce landfill disposal, and deliver environmental benefits for residents.

2. As the council is currently in a procurement for a new Environmental Services contract (Waste Management, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance) which will commence on April 1st 2027, this will align the new food waste service with the successful contractor.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Cabinet on the proposed change of date, from the 3rd November 2026 to the 1st April 2027, now timed to coincide with the full delivery of the new food-waste vehicle fleet which has been delayed.

1.2 To outline the statutory requirement under the Government's Simpler Recycling reforms for all local authorities to introduce separate weekly food waste collections.

1.3 To ensure Cabinet is informed of the steps required to meet national expectations while delivering a stable, cost-effective and well-planned rollout of the new service.

2. Background

2.1 As part of the legislative changes by DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), including the Environment Act 2021 and specifically, the Simpler Recycling requirements on local authorities, local Councils have a legal and statutory obligation to deliver a food waste collection service to each domestic property in their districts from April 2026, in addition to the current waste and recycling collection service.

2.2 Service commencement is now proposed to be delayed until April 2027, as food waste vehicles will not be delivered until late November 2026.

2.3 The Council previously trialled food waste in several areas of the district which were successful, this resulted in the full roll out of the service back in 2010.

2.4 It is worth noting that the previous service was suspended in 2012, due to lack of participation, however the commencement of this service is based on statutory requirements from Government.

3.Details

3.1 The Council chose to delay ordering the Food Waste fleet until clarity was received from DEFRA around the two following issues:

- Uncertainty around funding, specifically how much support would be provided for capital costs, transition, and ongoing resources.
- Questions about material collection, including whether co-collection would be permitted under a Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable (TEEP) assessment.

This decision would directly affect the type of service the Council could offer, and the fleet required to deliver it.

Given these unresolved issues and DEFRA not making this announcement until January 2025, the Council felt it was necessary to wait for confirmation before placing any fleet orders as officers and members agreed it was safer to wait rather than risk committing the Council to the wrong fleet and additional costs, that may have not been covered by the grant scheme.

Due to this delay and the high demand now placed on the chosen supplier the vehicles are not expected to arrive until late November 2026. As a result, the Council will be unable to begin the food waste service until April 2027.

Although the statutory deadline is April 2026, DEFRA guidance allows for phased implementation where vehicle procurement or supply-chain constraints affect mobilisation.

3.2 There are several factors which have proposed us to change the commencement date to April 1st 2027.

- The first is the delay in the fleet to the end of November 2026 due to the supplier demand and operation issues.

- The second is the roll out, service changes are never carried out over the Christmas and New Year period as this is the busiest time on collections, when the tonnages of waste increase and we have to utilise additional fleet to manage this area of the service. All staff are utilised over this period to manage the changes to service collections days. Christmas will impact the collection days available and also disposal sites can increase time taken to collect waste.

The Council has considered rolling out in February 2027, however we would need to vary the current contract for two months to enable the existing contractor to provide the food waste service. This would not be financially viable nor would it be practical. TUPE regulations would also apply to those staff employed in the provision of the food waste service for that period, bearing in mind that the Council also starts a new Environmental Services contract on April 1st 2027. The delay will also align with the successful contractor starting on 1st April 2027 for the Environmental Services contract. This will mean there will be no need to vary the contract with the current provider and also recruitment of staff to provide the food waste service can be completed by the successful contractor appointed for the Environmental Services contract

3.3 As the procurement for a new contract for Environmental Services, which also includes the food waste service, for the period between 2027- 2035 has been released to the market, all interested suppliers have had a fair and transparent opportunity to bid for the services required by HDC. Consequently, no provider can reasonably assert that they were excluded from the opportunity to compete for the wider timeframe of 7years.

3.4 The successful contractor will be appointed following Cabinet approval in September 2026.

3.5 The successful contractor will subcontract the delivery of the caddies to a delivery company, who specialise in the roll out of containers for local authorities.

3.6 The Council has undertaken an audit of the implementation of the new legislation and due process, scoring a “good” result for this audit. This covered the procurement of caddies/fleet, the production of a new Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable (TEEP) assessment required to ensure the waste collection service requirements are met and the overall processes followed.

3.7 The Council requested an initial delay through DEFRA, due to the fact we were entering the re-procurement of the Environmental Services contract which included food waste. DEFRA responded to us however at the time the only criteria they would accept would be if a disposal outlet issue. The Council also raised the point that there are a limited number of fleet manufactures and as such delays would occur, which is what the Council has encountered. Further to this the Waste Recycling Action programme (WRAP) advised that as long as the authority has placed an order for caddies and fleet then this would be allowed. To note, if this approval to delay to April 1st 2027 is given by Cabinet, DEFRA will be notified again of this change.

4. Implications of Decisions

Financial

4.1 The Council has received three funding streams: Capital, Transitional and Resource. The latter has been incorporated in the overall financial settlement as opposed to a separate funding amount. Production of communications materials will also be covered in this project and these will be funded by the transitional grant.

Caddies and Bags

4.2 The delivery of food waste caddies is costed at approximately £1.65 per property, currently covering 45,003 properties, giving a total expenditure of approximately £74k. A DEFRA transitional grant of has been received to cover this cost and will be applied to fully fund the caddy delivery element. This price may be subject to change dependant on the award of the wider Environmental Service Contract.

4.3 It has been agreed that each household will receive one roll of bin liners as part of the service launch. The agreed budget for food waste green bags is a 2026/27 only revenue allocation of £35k[1]. No external funding has been allocated for this provision.

Delay in Implementation

4.4 When the 2026/27 budget was approved, the implementation of food waste was expected to be November 2026 (the last 4-months of 2026/27). The cost of this was estimated at £482k (see footnote 1 below). This funding will now be saved from the 2026/27 budget and reallocated to reserves. For 2027/28 the full cost of food waste is estimated to be £1.2m and is included for each year of the MTFS.

Future Environmental Services Contract

4.5 A provisional sum estimate of £322k and £342k was included into the MTFS for 2027/28 and 2028/29 respectively. The purpose of this sum was to reflect possible contract increases following the appointment of a new contractor.

[1] Cabinet, January 2026, Agenda Item 8, Page 59 & 75 / Council, February 2026, Agenda Item 7, Appendix 1, Page 23

Legal

4.6 This report seeks Cabinet approval to delay the commencement of weekly food waste collections until 1 April 2027 due to delay in delivery of the commercial fleet resulting from high demand:

4.7 The statutory deadline for local authorities to roll out weekly food waste collections to all households, as set out in The Environment Protection Act 2021 and Simpler Recycling Regulations, was 31 March 2026.

4.8 A full procurement exercise for the Council's combined waste services contract is currently underway, and a new contract will be in place by 1st April 2027. This contract will include the provision of a weekly food waste collection service.

4.9 Although the necessary commercial fleet is due to be delivered in November 2026, variation of the existing waste services contract to include food waste collection would involve the incumbent supplier recruiting staff for the period until 31 March 2027, who would then TUPE across to the new service provider. There would also be legal costs incurred in variation of the existing contract. By delaying roll out of the service until 1 April 2027, additional legal costs will not be incurred, and the new service provide will carry out its own recruitment of staff for the food waste service.

4.10 DEFRA is aware that the Council has not met the 31 March 2026 deadline and will be advised of the position regarding roll out of the food waste service once Cabinet has considered this report.

Monitoring Officer comment

4.11 As Monitoring Officer, it is my duty to report where the executive is considering proposals that fail to comply with a legal obligation.

4.12 As set out in the legal comments above, Councils were obligated to deliver the food waste service from 1 April 2026 unless the government awarded them a dispensation from doing so, which is not the case for Harborough District Council. DEFRA is aware of the situation and has been informed.

4.13 There are many other Councils in this situation; a BBC report in March 2026 indicated that at least 25% of Councils were unable to comply with the new regulations due to the delays in DEFRA funding confirmation and in fleet production.

4.14 There is a practical matter that whilst the Council does not have the necessary vehicles and equipment to deliver the service, then it cannot do so. As this report sets out, it is likely there will be a period where the Council will have the vehicles and equipment but will delay roll out until the new waste service on 1 April 2027.

4.15 Whilst the law (s.5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) does not expect me to consider the wider public interest in preparing reports related to legal obligations, I am of the opinion that the proposed recommendations in this report represent a reasonable and logical conclusion in light of the potential administrative and cost implications for rolling out food waste collections under the existing waste contract. I am also satisfied that officers are taking necessary steps to ensure the necessary vehicles and equipment is delivered to the Council, and to resolve the new contract for waste services. As such, I do not consider it proportionate or reasonable to formally issue a statutory report.

Environmental Implications

4.16 The diversion of food waste from landfill and incineration will contribute to a reduction methane emission.

4.17 A separate food waste service reduces contamination within the recycling stream and enhances the overall quality of collected materials.

4.18 Additional 7 x food waste vehicles will result in increased fleet mileage.

4.19 An initial roll of Biodegradable plastic bags to contain food waste in caddies will be issued.

4.20 Any plastic bags, liners, and other non-organic materials are mechanically removed during pre-treatment.

This will have a negligible net environmental effect when compared to the overall saving achieved in CO_2e as a result of recycling food waste.

4.21 Please note Appendix A – The Environment wheel for the service.

Risk Management

4.22 Risks associated with this proposal will be managed in line with HDC's risk and opportunity management framework.

Key risks relate to the following:

Risk	Mitigation
Misinformation/ Rumours	Regular Updates to residents through social media and comms, newsletters. Publish accurate information early and maintain a consistent message across all channels (website, leaflets, social media, press releases). Create a single, authoritative source of truth on the Council's website containing FAQs, service details, timelines, and myth-busting content.
Fleet/Caddies are delayed	Procurement of fleet has been completed, in contact with supplier regularly and with progress updates. (Now known delay has been identified through the fleet supply).
Low participation at launch	Deliver clear, timely information explaining how the service works, when it starts, and what residents need to do.

	Use multiple channels (leaflets, website, social media, local press) to ensure wide reach and reduce uncertainty.
Delivery of caddies to households	Work with supplier and the delivery company to ensure a project plan is completed.
Risk of challenge or government intervention through failure to provide service	The Council is working with the suppliers to ensure delivery of vehicles and equipment in order to support delivery from 1 April 2027. The government have not raised any concerns with the approach being adopted.

Equalities Impact

4.23 This aligns with previous service with no additional equality impact assessment required.

Data Protection

4.24 All data will be protected through current policies and procedures.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 Do nothing – discounted as this would breach statutory requirements for food waste collections.

5.2 Delay until the new contract starts in Apr 2027- discounted unless vehicles are delayed. (This is now required and forms the purpose of this report).

6. Recommendation

6.1 Approve the change in date for the commencement of a weekly food waste collection service from 3rd November 2026 to 1st April 2027, which will allow better alignment with the confirmed delivery of the new food-waste vehicle fleet.

7. Background papers

7.1 Previous cabinet report March 23rd 2026.

Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool (v1.36)

Adopted by Harborough District Council 2024

Report Name	Food Waste Service	Environmental Service Contract Procurement Report
Report date	23/03/2026	
Report author	Russell Smith	Russell Smith
Project Notes	Approval for commencement of the food waste service to align with vehicle delivery	Food Waste Service
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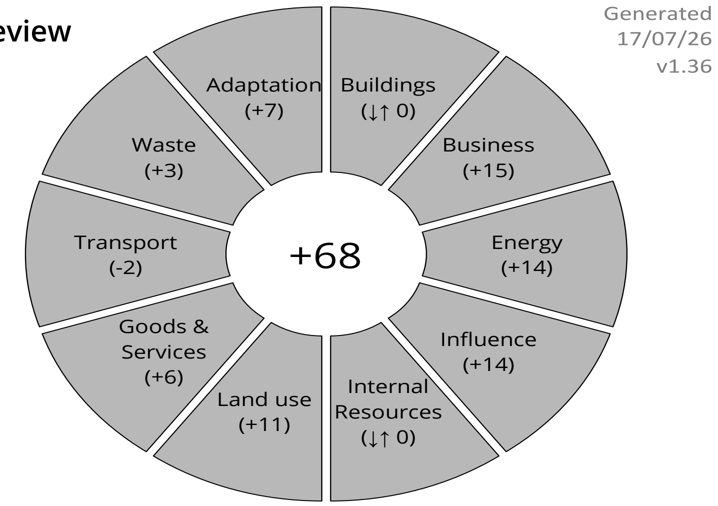

Harborough District Council has committed to being carbon neutral where practicable by 2030 (3 years and 5 months

Category	Impact	Notes / justification for score / existing work (see guidance sheet or attached notes for more information)	Score (-5 to +5)
Buildings	Building construction	n/a will use existing depot site	-
Buildings	Building use	n/a will use existing depot site	-
Buildings	Green / blue infrastructure	n/a will use existing depot site	-
Buildings			
Business	Developing green businesses	The food-waste collection service supports green business growth by providing material for renewable energy, encouraging circular-economy activity, creating low-carbon jobs, and helping reduce reliance on fossil fuels	+5
Business	Marketable skills & training	Employees gain awareness of climate impacts and how their role reduces emissions	+5
Business	Sustainability in business	Promotion of sustainable solutions in food waste. reducing landfill emissions, supporting renewable energy production, promoting circular-economy practices, and encouraging responsible waste behaviour.	+5
Business			
Energy	Local renewable generation capacity	Collecting food waste keeps it out of landfill and sends it to anaerobic digestion, where it's turned into renewable biogas. This boosts local renewable energy production, replaces fossil fuels, and cuts methane emissions. It also creates a natural fertiliser that supports low-carbon farming and helps build a circular local economy.	+5
Energy	Reducing energy demand	Prevents food from going to landfill, It enables renewable energy production, It supports composting, which reduces future agricultural energy use.	+5
Energy	Switching away from fossil fuels	A food-waste collection service helps phase out fossil fuels by turning waste into renewable biogas, replacing fossil-fuel energy, cutting methane emissions, and supporting a circular low-carbon system	+4
Energy			
Influence	Communication & engagement	Use multiple channels, leaflets, signage, web pages, community events—to reach different audiences	+3
Influence	Wider influence	Promoting biodiversity, promoting waste seperation via bin tags, leaflets and HDC media	+3
Influence	Working with communities	Supports local climate goals by increasing renewable energy generation from collected food waste	+4
Influence	Working with partners	Partner with local energy or agricultural organisations to highlight the circular benefits (biogas, digestate).	+4
Influence			
Internal Resources	Material / infrastructure requirement	Space for storage of vehicles, food waste cleaning unit	-2
Internal Resources	Staff time requirement	Statatory duty of staff to be employed by current incumbmnet	-

Internal	Staff travel requirement	NA	-
Internal	External funding	Transitional grants received from DEFRA	+2
Internal			
Land use	Carbon storage	The food waste collection service supports carbon storage by diverting organic waste from landfill, capturing carbon through anaerobic digestion, and returning stable organic material to soils through digestate use	+4
Land use	Improving biodiversity adaptation	The food-waste collection service supports biodiversity and better land use by reducing landfill, improving soil health through digestate, and encouraging more sustainable farming practices	+4
Land use	Natural flood management	N/A	+3
Land use			
Goods & Services	Food & Drink	Food Waste to be comissioned by Nov 2026	+3
Goods & Services	Products	N/A	
Goods & Services	Single-use plastic	N/A	+3
Goods & Services	Services	N/A	-
Goods & Services			
Transport	Decarbonising vehicles	Electric vehicles not suitable due to large distances travelled in a rural area	-1
Transport	Improving infrastructure	NA	
Transport	Supporting people to use active travel	Car share at depot and bike storage provided	+1
Transport		Extra 7 fleet vehicles for collection of food waste resulting in increased fleet mileage	-2
Waste	End of life disposal / recycling	Improving all recycling of waste streams Harborough top of league in Leicestershire	+4
Waste	Waste volume	Waste volume high, but working to improve knowledge of recycling, reuse and promotion of the new food waste service	-1
Waste			
Adaptation	Drought vulnerability	n/a	+3
Adaptation	Flooding vulnerability	n/a	+2
Adaptation	Heatwave vulnerability	n/a	+2
Adaptation			
Other	Other 1		
Other	Other 2		
Other	Other 3		
Other	Other 4		

Harborough District Council
Cabinet
27 July 2026

Title:	Section 106 Grants Application
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	Yes
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Report Author:	Steve Taylor – Health & Wellbeing Manager
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Whelband – Leader of the Council
Appendices:	Appendix A: Summary of information Sheet and Officer Recommendations for S106

Summary

i. Funding, known as Section 106 money (S106), is used to develop or improve community facilities and various open spaces.
ii. This funding is secured through a planning obligation request which is by either a bilateral agreement by deed or a unilateral undertaking attached to the land that is the subject of a planning permission. Contributions secured through planning obligations are used to mitigate or compensate for what would otherwise be the negative (planning) impacts of a proposed development.
iii. Since 1st August 2021, the Council's adopted S106 process provides for applications for funding of under £25,000 to be determined by the S106 Senior Grants Officer in consultation with Senior officers, without a meeting of the Cabinet.
iv. Applications for funding over £25,000 are determined by Cabinet.
v. 1 (one) S106 Grant Applications have been submitted and assessed during this consultation process; it is eligible for consideration at this meeting.

The S106 Senior Grants Officer and Officers from the authority have considered project application 002 S106 R3 26-27 as set out in Appendix A to recommend for funding in line with Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) compliance criteria, and the criteria set out in the S106 grant guidance notes.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to :

1. Consider the following grant application and to approve for *either* full, part, or no funding:

002 S106 R3 26-27 HDC – Welland Park Pavilion Upgrade 2. Delegate authority to the Director of Communities and Wellbeing, in consultation with Legal Services, to enter into any necessary legal agreement to ensure proper utilisation of s106 funds within any contract awards.
Reasons for Recommendations
• The recommendation put forward to the Cabinet have been assessed against the requirements for funding which are based on projects fulfilling the key S106 criteria, being CIL compliant and demonstrating project evidence of need.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to submit the recommendation on funding allocation for S106 grants to the Cabinet.

1.2. The Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendation for the allocation of grants as outlined in Appendix A.

2. Background

2.1 Under S106 of the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (as amended), contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure to fill the gap in need which has arisen because of a new development taking place.

2.2 The level of funding contributions is negotiated between developers and the Development Management Service during the planning application process. Developer contributions are paid to Harborough District Council when the development work begins, or when certain trigger points are met such as pre-commencement of work or the development reaching a certain occupancy (depending on the terms of the S106 agreement). This money is then allocated to projects in local Parishes delivering the development through a grant funding allocation process outlined below.

3. Details

3.1 The recommendation put forward to the Cabinet is based on the project fulfilling the key s106 criteria, being CIL compliant and demonstrating project evidence of need.

The S106 Senior Grants Officer can confirm that any application which is recommended for funding aligns with the three CIL compliance tests set out in Regulation 122 of The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 2010 (as amended) as follows:

- It is necessary to make development acceptable in planning terms.
- It is directly related to the development.
- It is fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

3.2 The S106 Senior Grants Officer in consultation with Officers make recommendations to the Cabinet based on scrutiny of each individual application. The decision to allocate funding is then made by the Members of the Cabinet.

3.3 Other processes in place to ensure the Section 106 grants are allocated to the right projects and organisations are as follows:

- The S106 Senior Grants Officer will work with each of the Parishes who hold Section 106 funding to ensure they meet deadlines.
- Parishes are encouraged to adopt a more strategic/joined up approach when looking at future projects in their community.
- The S106 Operational Group, which is a group, attended by officers from Legal, Strategic Planning, and Community Partnerships have continued discussions about how to encourage Parishes to be more prepared for S106 negotiations at the planning application stage.
- Community Health and Wellbeing Officers are employed by the Council and work in collaboration across the organisation providing strong links to our communities and parishes across the district.

3.4 The scope of the project is outlined in Appendix A.

4. Implications of Decisions

Financial

4.1 Grants are drawn from income generated from S106 Developer Contributions; some projects have been identified in S106 Agreements or Council Strategy. The following S106 agreements are included as sources of funding to deliver the recommended project.

Welland Park Pavilion Project - £128,000

Planning ref	Area	Contribution in HDC bank	Spending Criteria as per S106 Agreement	Spend by Date	Available funding
19/01336/FUL	Fishers Farm Foxton	Parks & Gardens	For the enhancement and improvement of facilities at the Memorial Gardens in MH or Welland Park	27/02/2027	£2,404.72
15/00746/OUT	Farndon Rd	Community Facilities	To use towards the provision or improvement and/or establishment of community and social infrastructure in the vicinity of the Development	03/03/2028	£151,964.55

This leaves £26,369.27 of available funding from 15/00746/OUT if the project is fully successful

Legal

4.2 Any contributions collected under Section 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) must be used for the purpose stated in the relevant agreement. The proposals within this report are within the legal powers of the Council and meets the three statutory tests under Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (necessity, direct relationship, and proportionality).

Environmental Implications

4.3 The project has completed a Sustainability questionnaire, contained in Appendix B.

Risk Management

4.4 All successful applications will be bound by terms and conditions that aim to minimise risk and promote best value. In addition, applicants must demonstrate as part of their application that their organisation has the appropriate governance arrangements and skill sets to carry out the successful project.

4.5 Spend by dates, are indicated in 4.1 of this report and in Appendix A.

Equalities Impact

4.6 The published grant criteria and terms and conditions consider issues of equality and diversity. Equality is addressed within the application criteria, terms, and conditions.

4.7 The application form and guidance notes are designed to be user friendly, and the Council's Equalities Officer has been consulted in relation to this process.

Data Protection

4.8 The Council has restricted the application process to organisations seeking capital contributions as such no personal data is recorded in relation to this process.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 Cabinet are asked to consider the applications and make the decision to grant full, part or no funding.

6. Background papers

Appendix A Summary of information sheet and officer recommendations
Appendix B Sustainability questionnaire

Community Grant Ref No	Organisation	Project Details	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested from S106	Documents Included	Other Funding Info	Relevant Scheme	Amount Available	Spend by Date	Which Development with Spending Criteria as per S106 Agreement
002 S106 R3 26-27	Harborough District Council	Welland Park Pavilion Upgrade	Pavilion cost: £477,000 (exc. VAT, inc. contingency)	**£128,000**	Application Form Business Case Quotes Minutes from SEAP	Capital budget secured: £365,000	Parks & Gardens Community Facilities	£2,404.72 £151,964.55	27/02/2027 03/03/2028	19/01336/FUL 15/00746/OUT

Project Outline

The project at Welland Park has two elements; to transform the disused Bowling Green into a multi-purpose outdoor events area and to improve and re-establish the Bowling Pavilion building for community use. The application for S106 funding is specifically for the Pavilion building.

Welland Park Bowling Pavilion

The expected outcomes of the re-opened Pavilion are the creation of a modern, accessible and energy-efficient facility that promotes equality of opportunity, fosters cohesion and is a facility fit for events and activities for the local community. The project is being delivered in two phases to ensure the building is first secured and refurbished, before introducing additional enhancements.

Phase 1 includes the upgrade works such as essential repairs to the roof, rainwater goods, external elevations, external works, internal fabric, and mechanical and electrical systems, all of which are critical to restoring the building.

Phase 2 focuses on the which will focus on the internal fit-out and ‘added value’ elements required to create a flexible, multi-use community venue. This will include elements such as a fully equipped kitchen, projector and screen and defibrillator ensuring the Pavilion can support a wide range of activities and events.

Project Costs:

Phase	**Description**	**HDC**	**S106**	**Total**
Phase 1	Building Works	£349k	£98k	£447k
Phase 2	Fit-Out	0	£30k	£30k

Timeframe for project

- Start Q3 26-27, completion by Q1 27-28

Officer Recommendation

- Recommend

Reason for Recommendation

- Meets criteria for spending within the agreements
- Creates an additional community space for Market Harborough

Additional Terms and Conditions if grant awarded.

- Updated quote(s)/relevant procurement framework before work starts
- Phased payments
- Community Use Agreement

Officer Comments

If this is fully funded from the above noted contributions, there will be £26,369.27 remaining from 15/00746/OUT

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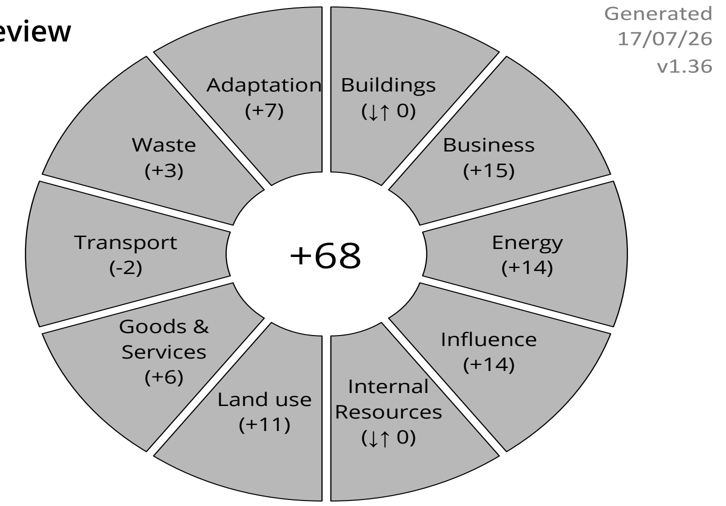

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Goods & Services	Products	N/A	
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Goods & Services	Services	N/A	-
Goods & Services			
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Transport	Improving infrastructure	NA	
Transport	Supporting people to use active travel	Car share at depot and bike storage provided	+1
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Adaptation	Heatwave vulnerability	n/a	+2
Adaptation			
Other	Other 1		
Other	Other 2		
Other	Other 3		
Other	Other 4		