

**Harborough District Local  
Strategic Partnership**

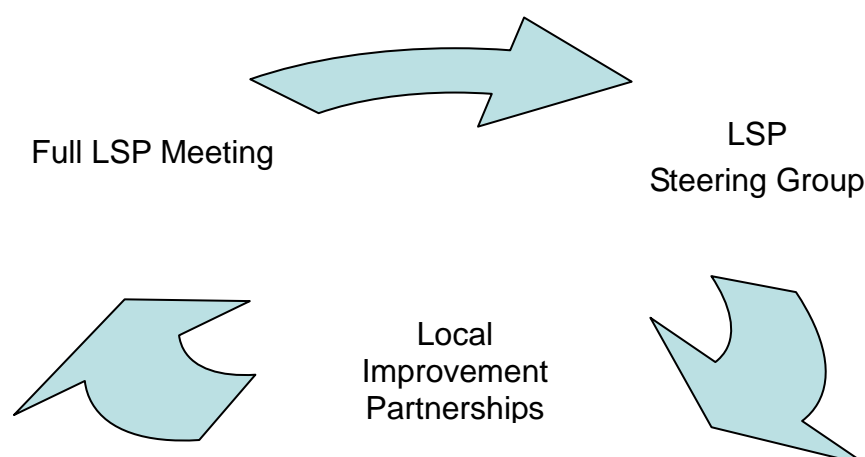
**Draft  
Sustainable  
Community  
Strategy**

## Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership

### Draft District Sustainable Community Strategy

#### Introduction

1. **Local Strategic Partnerships** exist in most local authority areas in England and Wales. The Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership brings together representatives from some of the key district organisations to focus on local issues. The Partnership considers how best to support the various local communities across the district and how to bring together relevant national and regional policies with local community concerns and turn them into a **Sustainable Community Strategy**.
2. The Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership has the following three elements:
  - The Local Improvement Partnerships
  - The Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group
  - The Full Local Strategic Partnership Meeting
3. A critical factor in making the Local Strategic Partnership work with and for the various communities across the Harborough District is the link between the three levels of partnership working. All of the organisations and groups involved in the partnership understand how important it is to involve the local community in the processes of planning and delivery of services. It is the intention of the Local Strategic Partnership therefore, to turn the three key elements into a family of partnership groups that will directly link to each other, creating a continuous cycle of planning, delivery and assessment.



#### What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?

4. A Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a long-term vision for a council wide area, either County wide or District wide. It will focus on promoting or improving the

economic, social and environmental well-being of its area. Sustainable Community Strategies are drawn up by Local Strategic Partnerships.

## **Portrait of Harborough District**

(Taken from the LDF Core Strategy Document 2006)

### Introduction

5. The District of Harborough is situated in the south of Leicestershire and borders Warwickshire to the west, Northamptonshire to the south and Rutland to the east. The District is primarily rural with two main market towns (Market Harborough and Lutterworth), a collection of rural centres and a large number of small villages and hamlets. It is home to some 76,559 residents (census 2001) with 35% of the population living in the market towns. The rural nature of the District is emphasised by the majority of settlements (71 of 93) having a population of less than 500 people.

### Demographic

6. The largest proportion of the population is made up of those in the 35- 44 year old age group which is consistent with both county and national averages. The lowest proportion consists of those between 20 and 29 years old, which shows the District has a relatively low proportion of young people when compared to the national average. This is particularly prominent in rural villages as a large proportion of young people are concentrated in the two market towns. In total the Harborough population comprises 62.5% of working age, 18.9% under 16 and 18.6% of pensionable age (male over 65 or female over 60). The large majority of the population is white in ethnic origin (97.87%) whilst Christianity is the prominent religion within the District (77.98%), (Census 2001). Of the working age population in Harborough 83.3% are economically active, while only 0.7% claim job seekers allowance, one of the lowest levels in the country (Labour Force Survey 2003- 2004). The population within the District is expected to rise by 19% by 2016 (compared to the 2001 census figure) due to a natural population increase and rise in migration into Harborough.

### Accessibility / Transport Links

7. The District is served by a good transport network, with the M1 motorway running through the western edge of the District, supporting the national storage and distribution centre at Magna Park. Numerous A-roads such as the A6, A47 and A508 also serve the District linking the main settlements with the cities of Leicester and Northampton as well as the surrounding towns of Kettering and Corby. In addition to national road links the District also has national rail links to London, Leicester, Derby, Sheffield and Nottingham via the Midland Mainline train route which stops regularly at Market Harborough. The District also enjoys good access to the Nottingham East Midlands Airport near Castle Donnington. Public transport within the District is a mixed picture due to the rural nature of the District. The two market towns enjoy a frequent and reliable bus service between the two as well as regular links to Leicester and Hinckley. Community transport services across the District also ensure smaller villages enjoy public transport links to the larger settlements, although these can be infrequent.

### Residential Development

8. Between 2001/02 and 2004/05 an annual average of 364.5 houses has been built across the District. Of these new dwellings 37% have been built on previously developed land and 53.4% have been completed on sites allocated in Harborough's Local Plan. This has seen a significant expansion of Lutterworth and Market Harborough in particular, especially in the late 1990's and early 2000's. The majority of the District's 33,455 dwellings are privately owned (92%) while the remaining 8% are owned by Harborough District Council or Registered Social Landlords (HSSA return March 2005). house prices increased on average by 114% between 1998 and 2003 in the District compared to a county rise of 92%. ( Land Registry 2004).

### The Economy

9. Between 2001/02 and 2004/05 an annual average of 10.8ha of employment land has been developed across the District. Of this development 97.9% has taken place on previously developed land.
10. Within Harborough District there is a particular employment focus upon the Magna Park site, which is located to the west of Lutterworth. The development contributes 64% of all employment floor space in the District and 83% of all warehouse sites. The highest concentration of office development is found in Market Harborough (57%) with new developments at Lathkill Street, the Harboro' Rubber factory and the site at Airfield Farm expected to increase this further in the coming years (HELS 2005).
11. The five largest employers within the District are: Asda Stores PLC, Lloyd Fraser Group, Argos Distributors Ltd, Cottage and Rural Enterprise Ltd and Lutterworth Grammar School and Community College. Of these, the top three are located at Magna Park, emphasising further its importance to the District.

### Retail and Leisure

12. The main retail focus within the District is at Market Harborough, although Lutterworth and Kibworth also make small scale contributions. The general retail sector is small in Harborough with competition from Leicester and Northampton having an effect on the number of shops in the District. However, a recent rise in the number of national retailers choosing to locate in Market Harborough, such as Aldi, Lidl and Marks and Spencer's, may suggest a rise in the town's retail importance. The growing number of national retailers is reflected by the high street structure with the majority of these stores being located on the main high street with independent retailers largely restricted to side streets and secondary areas.
13. There are a large range of sports and leisure clubs and organisations within the District that serve local needs, with particular focus on the leisure centre at Market Harborough and the newly built leisure centre at Lutterworth. In addition rural centres provide community halls and facilities for their residents and for residents of nearby smaller villages.

### Social Infrastructure

14. The District of Harborough is ranked as one of the least deprived areas in Britain, being ranked 335<sup>th</sup> out of 354 in the 2004 assessment. This is supported by a high average household income, low unemployment, low crime levels and a well educated work force. It is also reflected by a longer life expectancy and a lower mortality rate compared to the UK average.

15. The small size of healthcare facilities within the District means reliance for hospital provision is focused on Leicester and Kettering. The large majority of GP surgeries are focused within the main towns and rural centres, and although the number is good this can lead to isolation for some smaller rural settlements.
16. School provision across the District is good, although some schools, especially in Market Harborough and Lutterworth, have reached capacity. This is particularly evident in secondary schools where capacity is being exceeded. Furthermore primary schools are largely recognised to have a very small capacity to take an increased number of pupils. The provision of school places may prove to be a key sustainability issue when allocating land for new residential development throughout the District.

### Landscape Character

17. The District of Harborough is made up of five broad landscape character areas; the Laughton Hills, the Lutterworth Lowlands, the Welland Valley, High Leicestershire and the Upper Soar. In addition to these there are 5 main rivers (Swift, Avon, Welland, Sence and Eyebrook) and 3 reservoirs (Saddington, Stanford and Eyebrook). The Grand Union Canal also flows through Harborough District contributing to water links with neighbouring districts and counties. The branch of this canal between Market Harborough and Foxton is of great significance to the local community and benefits tourism in the area
18. Land use is mainly agricultural, with mixed arable and pasture being most common. Floodplains across the District support agricultural production in medium sized fields which are enclosed by mixed hedges. Woodland cover across the District is generally limited although it is predominantly made up of oak and ash with horse chestnut more common in the Laughton Hills and waterside willow in the Welland Valley.

### Heritage and Conservation

19. Across Harborough District there are 14 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), of varying quality and size. In addition, there are 49 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM), and approximately 1200 listed buildings. Of these approximately 15% are classed as at risk although this figure fell by more than 4% between 2000 and 2003 (Heritage Counts 2004). A similar pattern has been seen throughout neighbouring districts and the region as a whole, with the number of listed buildings increasing and those at risk decreasing.
20. Conservation Areas have been defined for 62 of the 93 settlements within the District. These boundaries have been classified at varying times since 1969 and are currently under a period of review.

### Relationship with Neighbouring Areas

21. Harborough has a strong and wide ranging relationship with neighbouring authorities. The District is part of the Welland Partnership along with 4 other local authorities; East Northants, South Kesteven, Rutland and Melton. In addition it has close working links with neighbouring Leicestershire authorities such as Blaby, Oadby and Wigston, Charnwood and Leicester City.
22. The development at Magna Park provides the District with economic links with the

surrounding counties of Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. The 2001 Census showed that 13,142 people travel into Harborough from surrounding areas for work. Of these 17% come from Warwickshire, 8% from Kettering and 14% from Leicester City. A similar pattern is seen in reverse, with 9% travelling to Northamptonshire, 34% to Leicester City and 8% to Warwickshire. This demonstrates the importance of Harborough's location in relation to Leicester City, with a high proportion of commuters travelling to the city for work.

23. The District is also identified as falling within the Three Cities Sub-Area by the recent East Midlands Regional Assembly consultation document 'Options for Change'. In addition, the document identifies a Leicester and Leicestershire housing market area, which includes Harborough District.
24. Further links with surrounding districts are highlighted by the location of the two market towns, Market Harborough and Lutterworth. As these are located close to county borders and main transport routes, their links to Northamptonshire and Warwickshire respectively are particularly strong. A similar pattern is seen in some smaller northern and eastern settlements where a large percentage of services and facilities are provided by larger towns in other districts.

#### Governance Context

25. There are three levels of local government offering services to residents, visitors and businesses across the district Parish & Town Councils, District Councils and County Councils There are also various elements of regional government, which have an impact on the lives of local people, such as:
- East Midlands Development Agency
  - Government Office for the East Midlands
  - East Midlands Regional Assembly
  - East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum
26. On top of that there are a wide range of other agencies that are important to the District, including National Health Service and Police. As well as the large organisations there are a wide range of local community organisations, which play such an important role in defining the many local communities that make up the district. Organisations such as local sports groups, various support networks, environmental groups and those who offer a specific service. These organisations are often run by volunteers and have a very local focus.

#### Harborough District Sustainable Community Strategy

27. The Local Strategic Partnership for the Harborough District wants to focus on issues that are particularly relevant to the people who live and work in the district. The relationship between Harborough's Sustainable Community Strategy and the County wide strategy drawn up by Leicestershire Together is important. The main difference between the two is that the Leicestershire Together Sustainable Community Strategy will highlight the strategic county wide issues and concerns, whilst the Harborough equivalent places a higher importance on local issues. It is likely therefore, that the local priorities set out in the Harborough District Sustainable Community Strategy have not been highlighted in the strategic county wide approach because they are issues identified as important at the local level.

### Identifying Local Priorities

28. The issues highlighted in the Harborough strategy are issues identified by local people through a number of different types of consultation, including extensive Local Development Framework research and through an analysis of future trends. Some of the issues highlighted will be new but most will relate to areas where Harborough residents and businesses have identified a need to improve services that already exist.
29. The links between the Local Development Framework and the Sustainable Community Strategy are strong. The Local Development Framework is a process of bringing together a range of local planning information that will essentially set out what can and what can't be built over the next 10 to 20 years. It will also ensure that house building is managed in a sustainable way so that building new homes isn't done in isolation from the needs of the people who will live in them. So, the Local Development Framework will establish the requirement that some new homes will be priced at levels that local people can afford to buy them and will also ensure that services such as local doctors' surgeries, schools and leisure facilities are available. The importance of ensuring that building and spatial development i.e. bricks and mortar, are linked with the more people focussed social aspects of life in the community can not be overstated. Many of the research needs of the Local Development Framework are therefore also relevant to the Sustainable Community Strategy. There is not space here to list or summarise the Local Development Framework based research projects but they can be found in the Core Strategy document. 13 priorities have been identified, which will offer technical options and solutions to many of the issues identified through other consultations.
1. To meet strategic housing requirements, the accommodation needs of the District's population and the need for affordable housing.
  2. To meet strategic employment requirements, foster economic growth and maintain high employment levels in the District.
  3. To locate new development in sustainable locations with appropriate infrastructure, services and facilities in place or where these can realistically be provided.
  4. To protect and enhance community services, facilities, open spaces and infrastructure throughout the District.
  5. To protect and enhance the District's distinctive rural landscape, historic settlement pattern, natural environment and biodiversity.
  6. To safeguard and enhance the character and built heritage of the District's settlements and ensure that residential amenity is protected.
  7. To protect and promote the economic viability and vitality of the District's market towns and rural centres.
  8. To promote good design which respects, and where possible enhances, its surroundings and quality of life.
  9. To encourage alternative modes of transport so as to lessen the need for private car use and reduce the environmental impacts of road traffic.

10. To minimise waste production and maximise re-use and recycling of waste.
  11. To minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy resources.
  12. To promote the sustainable growth of tourism within the District.
  13. To encourage the appropriate re-use of brownfield sites in sustainable locations.
30. As well as the Local Development Framework research, Harborough District Council has carried out a number of consultation exercises including several district wide customer satisfaction surveys and have supported the process of Local Parish Planning to find out what the concerns and aspirations of local people are. The Local Strategic Partnership also hosted a district debate with local and regional agencies which, identified priorities from the organisational perspective. A consistent set of issues have been highlighted, which concern people across the district and at town and parish level. These are:
- Concern about the range and scope of activities for teenagers
  - Concern about traffic congestion and the amount of traffic and its effects on the environment
  - A desire to see improvements to public transport
  - A concern about the difficulties faced by young people and others in being able to afford to buy or rent a Decent Home
  - A general concern about Crime, particularly anti-social behaviour – a concern with a clear link to the desire to improve facilities and activities for young people.
  - Concern that a significant number of people needing homecare support services of one sort or another are slipping through the County Wide Safety Net.
  - A desire to ensure that older people's needs are included in the planning of services such as continuing education and sports and leisure activities.
  - Concern about the effect on smaller rural communities of Post Office and other service provision Closures.
  - Concern about supply side issues around labour shortage and skills mismatch
31. As well as identifying what local people and businesses have highlighted as key issues for the District, an analysis of future trends was undertaken. Making accurate predictions however, is notoriously difficult, so this document has restricted itself to some areas where there are either some clear identifiable trends or in the case of climate change, some near universal agreement to the scientific evidence.

### Demographic Changes

32. The main source of data for demographic projections is the Census, which is conducted every 10 years. An analysis of recent census data shows that people are tending to live longer, are having fewer children and are changing the way they choose to live in a number of ways.
- More people want to live in the countryside. The number of people living in Harborough District is estimated to increase by 26.4% over the next 30 years compared to a forecast increase of 15.2% in the County.
  - Nationally the average age of the population is increasing with a significant increase

in 60+ age group. At the national level a 35% increase up to 2021 is forecast. It is envisaged that the Harborough figure will be similar or greater to the national increase.

- How we live is changing with more single person and single parent households than ever before. The number of households in England is projected to increase from 20.9 million in 2003 to 25.7 million by 2026, an annual growth of 209,000. Most of the additional growth is in the North West, Yorkshire and Humberside and in the West and East Midlands. The East Midlands number will increase by an average of 19,500 new households per year up to 2026.

(Source ONS 2007)

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that Harborough District, like many other East Midlands areas, is attracting a growing number of mainly young migrant workers. Accurate data on migrant populations is not currently available.

### Climate Change

33. There is now a very broad consensus that the climate is going through some significant changes and that these changes are being accelerated by human activity. The issues around climate change are too complex to go into in any detail here. For example, the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), which is funded by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and based at the University of Oxford, has produced a wide ranging set of scenarios linked to climate change. Each scenario offers a different picture covering temperature and rainfall in the UK based on 'Low Emissions', 'Medium-Low Emissions', 'Medium-High Emissions' and 'High Emissions'. Depending on which scenario is used the temperature and rainfall projections will fluctuate. The implication for the East Midlands is that we will have drier warmer summers and milder wetter winters leading to amongst other things a greater risk of flooding in the winter and more draught conditions in the summer. Further details of the UK Climate Impacts Programme report and information about the impact of climate change can be found on their web site <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/default.asp> or requested by e mail: [enquiries@ukcip.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ukcip.org.uk) or telephone 01865 285717.

### Financial Disadvantage

34. Recent Government research has shown that over 20% of rural households suffer some kind of financial disadvantage. In a generally affluent area such as Harborough District financial disadvantage can be overlooked and remain hidden. One way of identifying financial disadvantage is to examine numbers of people seeking help in dealing with household and personal debt. *In Harborough, the average debts of clients using the Citizens Advice Bureau has increased from £ 10,000 in 2004/5 to £33,000 in 2006/7, which represents the most significant increase in Leicestershire. In 2006/07 around 1200 people in Harborough District sought advice on debt.*

### Other Pressures

35. Local public services are changing in a significant and profound way. After decades of Central Government control new freedoms are promised and new ways of working are being promoted. The **Local Government White Paper, Strong and prosperous communities** and the associated **Local Government and Public Involvement in**

**Health Bill, The Planning for a Sustainable Future White Paper, Crime and Disorder Act reforms, and a variety of NHS reforms** all point to a greater prominence on partnership working and engaging local people and local communities. For example, the underlying concept and framework for the Local Government White Paper is the notion of “Place Shaping” which is a way of describing the wider role local government has in the overall development of an area.

36. The Local Government White Paper stresses the importance of Local Area Agreements and places a duty on a wide range of public service agencies to cooperate in the development and delivery of priorities. The Leicestershire Local Area Agreement is a three year agreement between Central Government, represented by the Government Office for the East Midlands, and Leicestershire, represented by the Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership. The primary objective of The Local Area Agreement in Leicestershire is to deliver better outcomes for local people. The Local Area Agreement is focused at the county level and will be a significant added pressure to ensure effective local community engagement is achieved so that the wants and needs of local Harborough based communities are not forgotten in the bigger County picture. The Local Area Agreement should be informed and reflect the priorities set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Development Framework.

### The Vision - Harborough 2027

#### Harborough District - Rural South Leicestershire Forward looking - Community led

- Embracing change in a positive way that will maximise the benefits for local people
- Promoting strong resilient communities that are active, caring and welcoming
- Delivering community led solutions supported by and in partnership with Harborough District Council and its partners

Specifically Harborough will be:

A District where good quality and affordable homes and local job opportunities go hand in hand. It will be a district where local people will be encouraged to take the lead in creating healthy, sustainable, and inclusive communities, through community led actions supported by Harborough District Council and its partner organisations. In addition it will be a district that seeks to capitalise on the wider social and economic changes affecting the East Midlands Region. It will also be a district that places a high premium on the attractiveness of the built and natural environments both of which will be maintained, and enhanced where possible.

### Priorities for the District

#### **1. Local Action for Strong Communities**

Why is it Important to work closely with local communities?

Central Government policy is, to a large extent, focussed around improving services in areas of high and visible levels of disadvantage and deprivation. Harborough District covers rural South Leicestershire where levels of disadvantage don't have the same levels of concentration as in other parts of the County. That does not mean that there aren't challenging issues to be faced in rural areas; it's just that they aren't so visible. A major difficulty facing the District Local Strategic Partnership in coming up with practical solutions to local issues is that any special government funding goes to areas where the problems are concentrated and visible.

Harborough District Council has decided that for a District as spread out as Harborough, the most effective way of tackling the, very often, localised priorities is to bring policy making closer to local communities and local people by working with local area based partnerships. The District Council has called this process Local Area Management. The Local Strategic Partnership has adopted Local Area Management as the underlying feature of its work. Local Area Management is recognition that local communities are best placed to identify the issues that are important to them and often best placed to provide the solution as well, supported, where necessary, by agencies such as the district council.

Local Communities, however they are defined, are affected by the range of services delivered to them. In any defined area, albeit village, town or city, services of all kinds are delivered by a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies. All have an impact on the everyday lives of local people. Influencing how these services are planned and delivered is the key to Local Area Management. Establishing the right locally based structure will ensure:

- A greater level of engagement with local people
- A greater sense of “joined-up” working between agencies (statutory and voluntary) can be achieved
- Local, regional and national priorities can be linked
- Information can be widely shared between agencies and between the agencies and the Community
- Duplication in service provision is minimised
- Any gaps that exist in services can be identified and closed.

The Local Strategic Partnership is currently working closely with Harborough Improvement Team and Broughton Astley Improvement Team and is talking with Lutterworth Improvement Partnership about how the two can work together. All three partnerships are locally focussed and include Local Councillors, Local Business Organisations, Local Voluntary and Community Organisations, Local Police and Local People.

We are also following the lead of Harborough District Council in looking at how we can strengthen our links with the many smaller communities and parishes across the district. Just as the aim of working closely with the Local Improvement Partnerships in Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley is to help local people improve their communities, the idea of the rural focus will be to find an appropriate way of supporting local village residents and parishes to improve their communities.

The Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership will:

- Develop strong partnership links with Parish Councils and rural communities
- Support and promote the work of Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Parish and

Local Councils in the District and help establish a functioning Harborough branch structure

- Support Local Improvement Partnerships and local parish and village groupings undertake Area Action Planning/Parish Planning.
- In partnership with each Improvement Partnership establish a Voluntary and Community Sector support and development programme
- Support the Extended Schools Programme
- Support the work of Harborough District Sport & Activity Alliance as it raises the profile of and promotes the benefits of sports and leisure activity at the local community level
- Seek to fund an Artist In Residence post to help local communities develop Cultural programmes for local people
- Collaborate with the Local Improvement Partnerships and appropriate parish and village groupings in developing a Social Audit Programme that will mean the Local Strategic Partnership is fully accountable for its social, environmental and economic impact, able to report on its performance and to provide the information essential for planning future action and improving performance

### **Associated Strategies or Plans**

Regional Plans: *Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) Framework; the Sustainable Development Framework for the East Midlands.*

County Plans: *Leicestershire Local Area Agreement; Leicestershire Rural Partnership – Rural Strategy*

District Plans: *Harborough District Council – Have Your Say; Crime Disorder and Drug Reduction Strategy ;Harborough District Arts Development Plan*

## **2. Climate Change**

### **Why is Climate Change Important?**

Climate Change is one of the most serious challenges facing the world today. Climate Change will lead to:

- **Higher average temperatures**, leading to a greater need for cooling in offices/homes and a higher probability of extreme high temperatures which could threaten the health of many people
- **Wetter winters**, leading to increased flood risk
- **Drier summers**, placing greater strain on water resources and wildlife and putting pressure on farmers to diversify crops
- **Rising sea levels**, leading to more coastal erosion and a greater risk of flooding

Source Nottingham Declaration

### **The Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership will:**

- Promote sustainable building design and construction
- Promote Green Travel Plans with local employers
- Promote energy efficiency to households

- Work with local communities to highlight the importance of local action

### **Associated Strategies or Plans**

Regional Plans: *Nottingham Declaration*

County Plans: *Climate Change Strategy for Leicestershire; Welland Procurement Strategy; County Local Area Agreement*

District Plans: *Draft Climate Change Strategy for Harborough District; Draft Air Quality Action Plan for Harborough District*

### **3. Junior Citizens and Senior Citizens**

#### **Why is it Important to Highlight Junior and Senior Citizens?**

Nationally the average age of the population is increasing with a significant increase in 60+ age group. At the national level a 35% increase up to 2021 is forecast. It is envisaged that the Harborough figure will be similar or greater to the national increase. Many older people rely on discretionary services – community centres, lunch clubs, shopping services and other services which local organisations provide, but which are not mandatory. There has been a general decline in these services, yet they can be crucial to the quality of life of older people.

Local thinking needs to be built into developing a broad strategic approach, in which communities can implement real changes for older people that are sustainable over time. Developing a broad strategic approach to older people can bring many benefits, both for older people themselves and for authorities and agencies. It can:

- Allow councils to address the whole range of issues that are important to older people
- Provide a focus for dialogue with older people
- Add coherence and direction to what can be a fragmented picture
- Encourage better use of resources by reducing duplication and identifying opportunities for collaboration
- Provide a focus for work to be done with older people in a locality
- Raise the profile of older people
- Challenge the stereotype of older people as dependant
- Increase awareness of what is available to older people

Whilst the demographic pressure are not so great when looking at the future needs of young people, Harborough residents have consistently told Harborough District Council that they see services for young people to be their highest local priority. Further research has indicated that the shortfall of provision for young people and children tends to be focused in the upper end of this typology – provision for teenagers.

The Local Strategic Partnership thinks that, young people's services should follow the Every Child Matters Outcomes Framework that focuses on an action programme that supports young people to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution

- Achieve economic well-being

These five outcomes are universal ambitions for every child and young person, whatever their background or circumstances.

The Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership will:

- Promote a positive approach to ageing by opposing and confronting ageism, stereotyping and other forms of discrimination against older people
- Assist older people to maintain their dignity and independence by developing extensive participation in decision-making, especially at the very local level
- Increase access to information and advocacy services required by older people so they can take action for themselves
- Reduce poverty in old age by encouraging older people to secure their welfare benefit entitlements
- Seek to develop a not for profit Homecare Company that will provide services to people who fall through the Social Services Safety net
- Increase equality between older people by improving access to leisure, social activities and lifelong learning
- Ensure the importance of play on the health and well being of young people is recognised and included in key strategies to improve service, delivery and funding resources.
- In partnership with local communities ensure the needs of the children and young people in each parish are addressed at a local level.
- Develop links with the local extended school partnerships to co-ordinate existing services available and to help deliver services on a needs basis.
- To recruit at least two Play Rangers by September 2008 to increase provision of free play in the District
- Seek to develop a Community Enterprise managed by young people, supported by relevant agencies, focused on developing and delivering services for young people across the district
- Counter negative perceptions about young people by highlighting the positive contribution they make to local communities across the district

**Associated Strategies or Plans**

County Plans: *County Local Area Agreement*

District Plans: *Older Persons Strategy; Play Strategy; Crime Disorder and Drug Reduction Strategy; Harborough District Arts Development Plan; Harborough District Sports Alliance Plan*

#### **4. Public and Community Based Transport**

##### Why is Public and Community Based Transport Important?

Transport concerns everyone one way or another. People spend a lot of time and money travelling to and from work, shops, schools. In rural areas like Harborough District the private car is the dominant mode of transport. Whilst Private transport solutions are and will remain a central feature of any local transport strategy they don't come without problems. Traffic congestion, pollution, potential isolation of people without their own means of transport and the degradation of public transport services due to a lack of demand are all problems associated with private car use. To a great extent transport issues are dealt with at the County Council Level and will feature in the Leicestershire Together County Strategy.

##### The Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership will:

- Promote volunteering as part of a local solution to community transport deficiencies.
- Seek support from local rural communities to develop a community enterprise solution to a community based transport network.
- Build links with employers to promote the development of green travel plans.

##### **Associated Strategies or Plans**

County Strategy: *Local Transport Plan for Leicestershire 2006 - 2011*

#### **5. Housing for everyone**

##### Why is Housing an Important Issue?

There is little doubt that affordable housing is becoming an increasingly important issue throughout the district. A recent set of figures from the Land Registry give an indication of just how serious the problem has become. These show that between 1998 and 2006, average property prices have risen from £83,721 to £190,000. However, 33% of district households earn £20,000 or less. This widening gap between house prices and earnings is a particular problem for people living in rural areas such as Harborough district. These factors are placing great pressures on local people, which will increase as more people chose to settle in the district. Moreover, a major issue for the district is a supply side deficit of 175 affordable homes to rent.

##### The Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership will:

Harborough District Council is the lead partner in this area of work. It has set out its priorities in the Housing Strategy 2007. Priorities include:

- Ensure new housing developments have at least 30% affordable homes available
- Further develop the work done as part of the LDF in defining what "affordable Housing" means for Harborough district

- In partnership with local communities and other local partners ensure that services to vulnerable people are met
- In partnership with local advice giving agencies improve the quality of information and advice available to home seekers
- Review the District's homelessness strategy

### **Associated Strategies or Plans**

District Plans: *Harborough District Housing Strategy 2007*

## **6. Economic Development**

### **Why is the Local Economy Important?**

The local economy is where local jobs and services come from. A vibrant local economy will mean:

- that there are jobs for local people
- shops and services will help local people to live more comfortable lives
- attractive towns and villages will attract visitors who spend money in local businesses which enables them to continue to offer services to local people
- buying locally produced products will mean less travel and be better for the environment

### **The Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership will:**

Harborough District Council and the Welland Strategic Partnership will co-ordinate the work of the other partners in supporting local economic development and will focus on:

- Working with Local Improvement Partnerships to ensure that Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley maintain strong local economies.
- Support the High Leicestershire Partnership to develop a set of rural economic programmes focusing on rural diversification, skills and training, rural tourism and environmental enhancement and protection.
- Work with the Leicestershire Rural Partnership to protect rural services

### **Associated Plans and Strategy**

Regional Strategy: East Midlands Regional Economic Strategy

County Strategy: Leicestershire Rural Partnership Rural Strategy

District Strategy: Harborough District Economic Development Strategy

