

Sent: 22 April 2025 16:30

To: [planningpolicy@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@harborough.gov.uk)

Subject: RE: Proposed Submission Draft Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 (Draft Local Plan) – Public Consultation (1)

Dear Policy Team,

**Re: New Harborough Local Plan Proposed Submission Draft Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041**

Melton Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Pre-Submission Local Plan. We can confirm that our officers attended to the Local Plan Duty to Cooperate Workshop on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. Different topics were covered in these meetings, including potential cross-boundary matters. Opportunities for participant's feedback were provided at, and after, these meetings. With this in mind, we are satisfied that the **Duty to Cooperate** requirements between Harborough District Council and Melton Borough Council have been fulfilled at this stage. This format of workshop, also undertaken by Melton Borough Council in the preparation of our Local Plan Partial Update, are just another example of the strong working relationship between local authorities across Leicester and Leicestershire and Harborough's commitment to fulfil their Duty to Cooperate. We also welcome references to MAG, SPG and POF in the Duty to Cooperate Statement as regular meetings where strategic matters are covered by districts, and we welcome references to the Strategic Growth Plan in the draft Local Plan (however, section 3.9 could be expanded to include Harborough's commitment to continuous collaboration with other districts on cross-boundary matters, although this might fit better under the context of Policy IM01).

We support the approach of **Policy IM01**, including the inclusion of part 'b)' as an alternative option if there are delays to action part 'a)'. The policy would benefit from a close list for 'd)' (or reference to NPPF triggers). Also, there's a minor typo as the policy refers to the 'Annual Monitoring Report' rather than 'Authority Monitoring Reports' (as correctly referred to in paragraphs 7.4, 9.2 and Glossary).

We support the conservative trajectory as set out in **Appendix 5**, understanding that it is based on 2023 data and that unmet needs have not been extrapolated in the last 5 years of the Local Plan period.

We also support the collective approach of **Policies DS02 and SA01** in meeting the Borough's employment land requirement of 60ha as evidenced in the 'Harborough Local Housing & Employment Land Evidence 2025' and the interim apportionment of strategic B8 need of 100-140ha as evidenced in the 'Strategic B8 Needs Sensitivity Report 2024'. Melton Borough Council has no cross-boundary concerns to these approaches or allocations.

From the **Policies Map** and allocations in the Local Plan, we have not identified any potential cross-boundary issue; however, we will welcome discussions with Harborough

District Council if this situation changes as consequence of this consultation or as part of the examination.

We do not wish to participate in the examination unless there is any substantial change regarding the Duty to Cooperate between both districts.

