



Oadby & Wigston

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Strategic Planning
Harborough District Council
The Symington Building
Adam and Eve Street
Market Harborough
LE16 7AG



Ref:
Date: 29th April 2025

Dear Colleague,

Harborough District Local Plan (Regulation 19) Consultation –Comments on behalf of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Thank you for consulting the Council on the Harborough Local Plan (Regulation 19) Consultation. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the emerging new Local Plan for Harborough District.

All local authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area have a strong track record of effective joint working on strategic matters and it is encouraging that Harborough continues to work collaboratively. While your plan has much to commend it there are a few points we would like to raise with you at this stage.

Paragraphs 4.5-4.7 deal with how Harborough DC are planning to deal with the Leicester City Council's unmet need. It is likely that Oadby & Wigston will be declaring an unmet need in light of the recent uplift to the Borough's Local Housing Need (LHN) and your plan may need to reflect this going forward, changing the figures set out in Policy DS01. Bearing this in mind, we welcome the wording you have included in your monitoring & review Policy IM01 in paragraphs 9.4 and 9.5 around committing to a review in light of emerging evidence of unmet need. Likewise, we welcome your commitment to ongoing partnership working set out in paragraph 9.11.

In Policy DS04 we welcome the desire to maintain both visual and physical separation between Oadby and Great Glen. Similarly, we welcome the aim of Policy DS05 Clause d ii) to ensure that there is a joint approach to infrastructure provision on cross border strategic sites.

Policy SA02 is a policy dealing with the cross boundary site allocation between our two authority areas and while we welcome the overall tone and thrust of the policy, we feel that the education provision set out in Clause 6(e) would benefit from further discussion between both Councils and the County Council as Education Authority.

The Council notes that this Plan doesn't appear to take into account the unmet need from Leicester City between 2036-41. Oadby and Wigston's recently paused Regulation 19 draft Local Plan sought to roll forward the unmet need from 2036-41, recognising that there was no other evidenced alternative approach as being more appropriate. This was widely agreed by all Partner Authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire, and

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therefore, we would recommend that Harborough District Council take a similar pragmatic approach in this Plan for that period.

It is noted that a Strategic Transport Impact Assessment (AECOM, January 2025) has been published as evidence to support the draft Plan and that it includes some outputs and assumptions about sites in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. We have commissioned our own Transport Study in relation to our Plan and the Borough's increased LHN, that we need to test. Therefore, when our Study is complete, both authorities will need to discuss how the outputs and assumptions arising from both studies relate to each other in informing the delivery of our respective Local Plans.

It is recognised that the jointly proposed Land South of Gartree Road Strategic Development Area will have a significant relationship with the settlement of Oadby, and therefore, it is recognised that the proposed scale of growth will have a significant impact on existing infrastructure within the Borough, as well as that which will be provided within the new development once built. It is also important to recognise that the Strategic Development Area has the potential to grow in size in the future and that Oadby is the primary settlement that will absorb much of the impact of the sites population growth. Therefore, despite our respective plans no longer progressing simultaneously, we remain committed to working together to bring this site forward in a sustainable and joined-up manner.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you under the duty to cooperate as your Plan evolves, especially in relation to cross-boundary infrastructure delivery considerations to mitigate the impacts of potential new growth in our Authority areas.

Please note that we have provided separate comments on the Duty to Co-operate Statement that you shared.

Yours faithfully,

