

**CABINET POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**  
**Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7.30 pm**  
**Zoom - Online**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive Councillors' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any matters on the agenda.
3. Minutes (Pages 2 - 3)  
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021.
4. Matters arising  
Any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.
5. Climate Change Strategy - Position Statement (Pages 4 - 19)
6. Town Plan (Pages 20 - 38)
7. Work Plan (Page 39)  
To review the Overview Working Group's work plan for the current year.
8. Matters of Urgent Business  
Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be received as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances to be specified in the minutes.

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP  
HELD ON**

13 January 2022

7.30 - 8.05 pm

**PRESENT**

**Overview Working Group Members**

Councillor Shona Johnson (Chair)  
Councillor Ash Malik (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Jodi Dunne  
Councillor Michael Garnett  
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop  
Councillor Clive Souter

**Other Councillors**

Councillor Simon Carter  
Councillor Tony Edwards  
Councillor Alastair Gunn  
Councillor Michael Hardware  
Councillor Dan Swords

**Officers**

Andrew Bramidge, Director of Strategic Growth and Regeneration  
Jane Greer, Director of Communities and Environment  
Dean James, Estates Officer  
Adam Rees, Senior Governance Support Officer  
Lisa Thornett, Corporate Governance Support Officer  
Suzanna Wood, Housing Development and Regeneration Manager

27. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

29. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

30. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

31. **HOUSING STRATEGY**

The Working Group considered a report on the Housing Strategy.

**RESOLVED** that the Working Group recommended to Cabinet that the Housing Strategy (attached as Appendix A to the report) be adopted.

32. **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

The Working Group received a draft version of the Climate Change Strategy. It was noted that an updated report would come back to the Working Group in March.

**RESOLVED** that the Strategy was noted.

33. **WORK PLAN**

**RESOLVED** that the Work Plan was noted.

34. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP

**REPORT TO:** CABINET POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

**DATE:** 10 MARCH 2022

**TITLE:** CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – POSITION STATEMENT

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** COUNCILLOR ALASTAIR GUNN, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR GOVERNANCE

**LEAD OFFICER:** JANE GREER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT (01279) 446406

**CONTRIBUTING OFFICERS:** ALISON FOX REGENERATION PROJECTS MANAGER (01279) 446407

DEAN JAMES, OPERATIONS MANAGER (01279) 446687

MICHAEL PITT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT (01279) 446114

**This is not a Key Decision**  
**It is on the Forward Plan as Decision Number I013580**  
**Call-in Procedures may apply**  
**This decision will affect no ward specifically.**

**RECOMMENDED that it recommended to Cabinet that:**

- A** The Climate Change Strategy Position Statement, attached as Appendix A to the report, is approved.
- B** Following development as indicated in the position statement a draft climate change strategy “Next Steps to Net Zero: Climate Change Strategy” be presented to Cabinet in Autumn 2022.

**REASON FOR DECISION**

- A** Approving the position statement will communicate publicly the Council’s position on addressing climate change town wide, and give direction to development of the Council’s forthcoming Climate Change Strategy.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. The Council's work to manage its direct carbon footprint reduced its carbon emissions by 39 percent by 2021. The most easily achieved measures including switching energy suppliers having now been implemented, further reductions will present increasingly difficult challenges. Nonetheless the Council's current Carbon Reduction Plan for the periods 2021 to 2026 aims to reduce emissions by a further 15 percent.
2. Recognising the growing understanding of the urgency of addressing climate change issues, Full Council in July 2019 approved a motion declaring a Climate Change Emergency.
3. In September 2021, Cabinet set a target of achieving Net Zero by 2040 with a commitment to review this on an annual basis and seek to improve on this target where the development of carbon free technology permits. Further, Cabinet agreed to receive a further report to set out how the Council, in exercising its community leadership role, can bring forward a broader Climate Change Strategy for the town. To this end development "Next Steps to Net Zero: Climate Change Strategy" has been put in hand.

## **REVIEW OF CURRENT POSITION**

4. Since September 2021, Officers have been working to scope out the potential wider Climate Change Strategy for the town and to understand the current position of the town's carbon emissions. This has included establishing what carbon emissions baseline data is known and where further research is required to gain a fuller understanding of how we can plan to achieve the target of Net Zero by 2040 across all Council services and for the town as a whole.
5. The following seven key objectives for the Climate Strategy have been identified:
  - a) To achieve Net Zero emissions from the Council's operational buildings, land, vehicles and services, including those provided by service delivery partners;
  - b) To achieve Net Zero emissions from all homes and the built environment within Harlow;
  - c) To reduce consumption of resources, reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling in Harlow;
  - d) To adopt good stewardship of the natural environment across the town to support both climate change adaptation and mitigation;
  - e) To achieve a significant modal shift towards more sustainable means of transport;

- f) To promote reduction of emissions by businesses to Net Zero, supported by a successful green economy; and
  - g) To lead and encourage local communities, partners and stakeholders to reduce their emissions and contribute positively to meeting the challenges posed by climate change
6. A Position Statement has been produced that summarises the current activities that are being taken to support each objective and identifies the main challenges to meeting the Net Zero target by 2040.
  7. The Position Statement provides a sound basis from which to develop the Climate Change Strategy. It identifies areas of work that need further investigation and development as well as demonstrating the range of issues that the Council must address to achieve the Net Zero target.

## **NEXT STEPS**

8. The strategy will seek to define the challenges associated with achieving Net Zero by 2040. In many cases, establishing relevant baselines will inform target setting within each work strand to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2040. Work is currently progressing within the Council and with key partners to identify and understand data sources.
9. With the necessary targets set, work to identify resource requirements and ordering of priorities across Council services can take place.
10. The issues outlined in the Position Statement are unlikely to form a complete and exhaustive list as it is acknowledged that the Council is likely to learn on the journey to Net Zero, and where necessary review and revise its approach.
11. It is anticipated that the Climate Change Strategy will be developed for presentation to Cabinet in Autumn 2022.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Strategic Growth and Regeneration**

The development of a corporate climate change strategy will reinforce and extend commitments made by the Council in adopting an updated Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document and endorsing the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town's Sustainability Guidance. It is expected that the further development of the Climate Change Strategy will identify ways in which these existing policies can be extended further.

**Author: Andrew Bramidge, Director of Strategic Growth and Regeneration**

### **Finance**

The delivery of any future actions will require both capital and revenue investments and, whilst some external support may be available in the form of grants

to help deliver the schemes, there will inevitably be a requirement for the council to consider the financial resources required when setting its future medium term financial strategies.

**Author: Simon Freeman, Director of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive**

### **Housing**

As contained in the report.

**Author: Andrew Murray, Director of Housing**

### **Communities and Environment**

As contained in the report.

**Author: Jane Greer, Director of Communities and Environment**

### **Governance and Corporate Services**

As contained in the report.

**Author: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services**

### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Harlow Council Climate Change Strategy – Position Statement March 2022

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

None.

Harlow Council Climate Change Strategy

Position Statement - March 2022

**Next Steps to Net Zero: Harlow Council Climate Change Strategy**

Harlow Council has made its commitment to Net Zero clear, both through its 2019 declaration of a climate emergency and latest Carbon Reduction Plan, which set out for the first time a target for the Council to achieve Net Zero from its own operations.

The reasons for this commitment are universally accepted but merit restating. Human activity and the way we fuel it are filling the climate up with warming elements, such as carbon. It has become clear that this is causing significant and costly damage to the climate, affecting people across the world. It is changing at a pace that means we must race to mitigate and adapt our economies, and ways of life.

Harlow Council will achieve a great deal through meeting its existing commitment of reaching Net Zero by 2040. However, it also has a civic obligation to consider what responsibilities it has towards the town as a whole and Harlow's transition to Net Zero. The Position Statement and forthcoming Climate Change Strategy it builds towards therefore engages with the Council's position as a community leader and the opportunities it will have to support residents, businesses and the town as a whole to meet the challenge of climate change.

The stakes are high. That starts with reducing the environmental harms climate change is causing but also applies to the way in which the transition itself is managed. If we get it wrong, Net Zero risks being costly for the residents we serve, including for future generations who have made clear their expectation that political leaders of today address climate change.

However, by embedding climate change into all that we do, from how we regenerate the town centre and our housing stock through to how we look to improve Harlow's transport links, safeguard our environment and work to foster a supportive environment for local businesses to thrive, we can get climate change right.

If we can achieve that, we will succeed in making Harlow a town that is fit for the future

**Alastair Gunn,  
Portfolio Holder for Governance**

**Background**

1. It is widely accepted that human activity has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land and that as the pace of climate change will bring unacceptable consequences globally. Working towards net zero emissions of greenhouse gases is essential. In June 2019, the UK committed to reach Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This is quantified as a reduction of at least 100 percent on the carbon

emission levels compared to 1990. This will mean eliminating emissions where practicable, minimising the remainder, and offsetting the residue. National policies will cover activities such as carbon budgeting, investment in green skills and jobs, and engaging citizens to identify and prioritise actions that can be taken to achieve Net Zero.

2. Harlow Council passed a Full Council motion in July 2019 declaring a climate change emergency. The motion stated that:

*“This Council believes that climate change is one of the most significant threats facing the world. One of the largest factors contributing to climate change is man-made emissions, especially those relating to the use of non-sustainable power sources. This Council recognises that action must be taken quickly in order to prevent climate change from causing irreversible damage to the planet. It also recognises the numerous social benefits which are brought about by reducing greenhouse gas emissions such as better air quality. This Council believes it is still possible to restore a safe climate and therefore declares a climate emergency.”*

Following this declaration, Harlow Council’s Cabinet (September 2021) agreed to set a target of achieving Net Zero by 2040, with a commitment to review this on an annual basis and to seek to improve on this target as the development of carbon free technology enables this to happen.

3. Without effective action to combat climate change it is clear that Harlow will face increasingly disruptive weather, damaging homes and businesses, flooding streets, and disrupting transport and communications affecting livelihoods; that it will be more difficult and costly to keep homes warm in winter and cool in summer; that food supplies will be disrupted by the effects on agriculture; and that the native species of plants, trees and animals that make up the natural world that we recognise, will not survive here.

### **Our current position**

4. Since 2010/11, the Council has been measuring and reducing carbon emissions from its operational activities through three five-year Carbon Management/Reduction Plans. Whilst this has been successful in reducing emissions of the Council’s operational assets and fleet by ~40 percent, it does not seek to address the wider carbon emissions of Harlow.
5. The Tyndall Centre at the University of Manchester has produced Carbon Budget Reports of recommended climate change commitments for UK local authority areas that are aligned with the commitments in the United Nations Paris Agreement, informed by the latest science on climate change and defined by

science based carbon budget setting. The results in the report show that for Harlow to make its fair contribution to delivering the Paris Agreement's commitment to staying “well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C” global temperature rise, then an immediate and rapid programme of decarbonisation is needed. To stay within the recommended carbon budget Harlow will, from 2020 onwards, need to achieve average town wide mitigation rates of CO<sub>2</sub> from energy of around -11.9 percent per year.

6. As part of its community leadership role, Harlow Council is seeking to develop a broader Climate Change Strategy for the town as a whole, which is to be known as “Next Steps to Net Zero: Climate Change Strategy”. The strategy will not only seek to set out how Harlow Council can achieve Net Zero through its own operations but also to outline how it can influence the wider community and local economy to deliver quantifiable reductions in emissions for the town. The Climate Change Strategy will outline achievable targets, identify aspects that are currently unquantifiable and highlight areas where further support and influence is required to help deliver the Net Zero targets. The targets will be set against the emissions reductions outlined in the Tyndall Centre Carbon Budget Reports.
7. The Position Statement sets out seven key objectives relating to achieving Net Zero that will be included in the Strategy.

**The “Next Steps to Net Zero: Climate Change Strategy” will cover the following seven objectives:**

- 1. To achieve Net Zero emissions from the Council’s operational buildings, land, vehicles, and services, including those provided by service delivery partners**
  - 2. To achieve Net Zero emissions from all homes and the built environment within Harlow**
  - 3. To reduce consumption of resources, reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling in Harlow**
  - 4. To adopt good stewardship of the natural environment across the town to support both climate change adaptation and mitigation**
  - 5. To achieve a significant modal shift towards more sustainable means of transport**
  - 6. To promote reduction of emissions by businesses to Net Zero, supported by a successful green economy**
  - 7. To lead and encourage local communities, partners and stakeholders to reduce their emissions and contribute positively to meeting the challenges posed by climate change**
8. The order given to the objectives above reflects the degree of direct control available to the Council. However, the Council is committed to taking a strong community leadership role in relation to climate change and achieving Net Zero, influencing and supporting behaviour change among residents, businesses, and partners around their climate impacts through homes, buildings, transport, work food and use of resources.

## Seven Objectives: Current Work and Key Challenges

### 1. To achieve Net Zero emissions from the Council's operational buildings, land, vehicles, and services, including those provided by service delivery

#### 9. Current work:

- Plans in pace to achieve carbon emissions from operational activities by 2040 include;
  - No new fossil fuelled boilers to be fitted into operational buildings after 2025/26
  - No new internal combustion powered vehicles to be purchased after 2022/23
  - Achievement of Net Zero from domestic waste and recycling operations during the lifetime of the next contract from 2029.
  - Working with HTS to achieve Net Zero from operations by 2040 and to identify a potential 12 percent saving during the lifetime of the current Carbon Reduction Plan.
  - Fitting solar panels to Council buildings.
- The Council has recently adopted new procurement standing orders that support the use of local suppliers which can reduce the level of emissions of a contract due to reduced travel.

#### 10. Key Challenges:

- More detailed understanding of the existing baseline of carbon emissions from each of the Council services will be needed.
- Technologies and techniques to help reduce carbon emissions are at early stage in development and it is not always clear which technologies will be the best options in the long term.
- Replacing natural gas used for heating with carbon free technology
- Replacing the Council vehicle fleet with carbon free technology
- An understanding of the Council's supply chain carbon footprint must be developed to assess the impact of procured goods and services.

## 2. To achieve Net Zero emissions from all homes and the built environment within Harlow

### 11. Current work:

- For the Council's Housing Stock, we are establishing the baseline energy efficiency ratings dataset and preparing to bid for government funding for retrofit upgrades to stock.
- The Council's District Heating boilers have been upgraded reducing emissions.
- A pilot retrofit scheme to include solar panels, upgraded insulation and heat pump heating is being developed for Council housing.
- Encouraging a "fabric-first" approach through adoption of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) Sustainability Guide, to make it a material consideration in determining planning applications.
- Minimising resource use in new developments through Local Plan policies which refer to the Sustainability Guide.
- Consulting on amendments to the Council's Design Guide to ensure that it fully reflects current regulatory requirements
- Participating in a Community Renewal Funded pilot project with Retrofit Academy and ECC which includes research on energy efficiency ratings of housing stock within Harlow and free retrofit training for local residents and businesses.
- Heating the Learning Centre at Pets' Corner, insulated by its straw bale construction, using a renewable-fuel pellet boiler.

### 12. Key Challenges:

- Upgrading the Council's housing stock of over 9,000 homes will be a substantial undertaking.
- Over 70 percent of homes in Harlow are privately owned. Homeowners will need to design and fund their own retrofit upgrades to properties.
- Availability of sufficient skilled retrofit staff and construction companies locally to undertake scale of retrofit required.
- Although new build housing is much more energy efficient than older stock; even so it will require additional measures to achieve Net Zero status.
- Many residents with limited means will be unable alone to carry out the upgrades needed to make heating affordable and carbon free.
- Spatial planning standards must be maintained whilst delivering Net Zero in the Built Environment.

### 3. To reduce consumption of resources, reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling in Harlow

#### 13. Current actions:

We

- Regularly promote recycling, green waste and food waste services in the Harlow Times.
- Regularly intervene where we find contamination of recycling.
- Educate young people and promote re-use and recycling habits through Crucial Crew annually.
- Will achieve Net Zero from operation of the waste collection service during the lifetime of the next contract, from 2029.
- Support ECC Love Essex “Don’t bin your food” and “Love Essex, Not Plastic” campaigns to help reduce food waste and single use plastics.
- Support the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations that run local food banks which help reduce food waste.

#### 14. Key Challenges:

- Waste strategies have historically focussed on disposal and recycling: better use of resources by designing out waste and reusing materials must come into closer focus
- Although overall waste per household in Harlow remains low, recycling rates have ceased improving in recent years.
- We need to encourage better separation of recycling: some 10 percent of the annual collection is rejected as “contaminated” with the wrong materials.
- Currently a limited range of items can be economically recycled. While the range collected might be extended, if these materials are of no value in the market doing so would lead to increased costs and emissions.
- Market pressures in the recycling sector result in challenges to the achievement of high levels of recycling and re-use of materials.
- The Council can only influence private commercial and industrial waste generation through its community leadership role.

#### 4. To adopt good stewardship of the natural environment across the town to support both climate change adaptation and mitigation

##### 15. Current actions:

- Supporting the Essex Forest Initiative by completing local tree planting schemes in Harlow with community participation.
- Bidding for funding from the Local Authority Treescape Fund to support future tree planting schemes.
- Including local tree planting schemes in the Council Capital Programme.
- Working with HTS to ensure that the environmental impact of products and methods used as part of its main activities are properly assessed.
- Increasing biodiversity and improving wildlife habitats in Harlow, including doubling floral verges and the re-establishment of native meadows.
- Working with volunteers to help maintain key green spaces within the town such as the Town Park, Pardon Wood and the Stort Meadows actively supporting their biodiversity and improving carbon retention on the soil.

##### 16. Key Challenges:

- Establishing robust data baselines can be difficult.
- Greater understanding of the complexities of the impacts of different approaches to stewardship of the natural environment is needed.
- Balancing competing demands on open space for leisure, amenity, and biodiversity.

## 5. To achieve a significant modal shift towards more sustainable means of transport

### 17. Current actions:

- Maximising the opportunities from HGGT to improve active transport links.
- Updated Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan identifying the priorities for the cycle routes across the town.
- Installing first phase of electric vehicle chargepoints in car parks.
- Developing a scheme for new Sustainable Transport Interchange within the Town Centre through the Towns Fund programme.
- Working with Garden Town partners to develop a new sustainable transport system for Harlow

### 18. Key Challenges:

- Adoption of sustainable means of transport will require a substantial behaviour change across the community.
- Additional baseline data and research is required to understand how the ambitions for modal shift can be achieved.
- The uptake of low emission vehicles and other sustainable transport will require the development of significant policy at a national level within which the Council can work.

## 6. To promote reduction of emissions by businesses to Net Zero, supported by a successful green economy

### 19. Current actions:

- Reducing transport emissions by promoting local procurement of goods services and local supply chains through “Harlow Winning Business”, a Community Renewal Funded local procurement project.
- Ensuring better opportunities for local suppliers through revised contract standing orders being embedded across the Council’s organisation.
- Promoting funding and Net Zero support for businesses via the Harlow Business Forum.
- Encouraging local businesses to develop Green Travel Plans including using conditions linked to planning applications where appropriate.
- Promoting the development of skills and training to support the green economy and reduce carbon emissions by working with Harlow College and other local training providers
- Promoting the free training available through the Community Renewal Funded retrofit project to local businesses and residents to help develop the skills required to deliver the retrofit of homes to deliver Net Zero.
- Ongoing promotion of LOCASE (Low Carbon Across the South East) grants for businesses.

### 20. Key Challenges:

- Little baseline data available detailing carbon emissions from businesses.
- The Council can only influence carbon emissions from businesses through its community leadership role
- The forecast nationwide skills gap to support a switch to a green economy.

**7. To lead and encourage local communities, partners and stakeholders to reduce their emissions and contribute positively to meeting the challenges posed by climate change**

Current actions:

- Promoting ECC led schemes such as Essex Energy Switch and Solar Panels.
- Working with energy hubs to promote and deliver home retrofit schemes e.g. Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery schemes.
- Promotion of a school/college green day via the Youth Council.

21. Key Challenges:

- Difficulties in enabling a shift in attitudes and behaviour given socio economic factors affecting Harlow residents.
- Getting the right information to local communities about how they can act.
- Building community engagement and communication programmes that inform, empower and build the capacity of local communities to make positive changes.

## Developing the Strategy

22. Whilst the Net Zero target has been set, along with the timeframe for achieving this, further data is required to develop the seven key objectives so that tangible actions, opportunities and threats are identified. It is clear that the key objectives are complex; that in some cases there are not yet sources of baseline data or agreed methods for measuring impacts. Knowledge and understanding about what is best practice, and which are the most appropriate technologies and approaches to support the reduction of emissions and respond to the challenges of Climate Change will evolve and change over time. Therefore, the Strategy should be viewed as a living guide to facilitating New Zero targets and should be reviewed and updated regularly as we move towards 2040.
23. The actions to be identified will be evidence led in order to help the Council to better understand the resources required so that it can meet the objectives.
24. Over the coming months a small officer working group will be working on further research and the drafting of the “Next Steps to Net Zero: Harlow Council Climate Change Strategy”. This work will feed into the Cabinet Policy Development Working Group. The aim is for the final strategy to be adopted in the 2022/23 municipal year.
25. It should be noted that in some cases (though not all), investment in activity to help achieve Net Zero may also result in savings which have the potential to be reinvested in other activities to support the delivery of Net Zero.
26. Harlow Council is keen to ensure that residents businesses and partners current and future will benefit from a successful Climate Change strategy. Communication and engagement with residents and businesses will be a key priority throughout the journey. Whilst the Council will be custodians of the strategy, its success will depend on the engagement of all stakeholders across the town.

**REPORT TO:** CABINET POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

**DATE:** 10 MARCH 2022

**TITLE:** HARLOW TOWN PLAN - CONSULTATION RESULTS

**LEAD OFFICER:** ANDREW BRAMIDGE, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION (01279) 446410

**CONTRIBUTING OFFICERS:** PAUL MACBRIDE, FORWARD PLANNING MANAGER (01279) 446258

CAROLINE STONE, FORWARD PLANNING OFFICER (01279) 446562

DAVID WATTS, SENIOR FORWARD PLANNING OFFICER (01279) 446577

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- A** The results of the Town Plan consultation are noted and any further comments provided to enable a revised version of the document to be produced.

**BACKGROUND**

1. Public consultation was undertaken on the Town Plan between Monday 15 November 2021 and Monday 31 January 2022.
2. Copies of the plan were made available online and in the Civic Centre, Latton Bush Centre and Harlow libraries. A survey was available online which residents could complete, or they could complete a hard copy which was available in the Harlow Times. Comments were also accepted via email or post.
3. A total of 66 residents and 11 organisations responded to the consultation. The 11 organisations included the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Board, Hertfordshire County Council, Epping Forest District Council, Eastwick/Gilston/Hunsdon Parish Council, the Harlow Civic Society, Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Systems and Designing Out Crime (Essex Police), as well as a number of planning agents acting on behalf of developers.

4. All organisations offered support for the Town Plan, in particular the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Board, while offering ideas and suggestions for improvement. Residents also offered high levels of support, as evidenced by the responses to the “yes/no” questions.
5. Some respondents, however, raised concerns that while the plan’s vision is informative, it is not sufficiently strategic and is too narrow, with insufficient explanation of what Greater Harlow is. Suggestions were also made to include comparative assessments of where we are now, as well as combining points in the vision and committing to full engagement with residents.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

6. Table 1 provides a list of the questions and, for the “yes/no” questions, the percentage of those responding with “yes” or “no”. Each of the “yes/no” questions had 54 to 58 answers, except Questions 13 and 17 which had 47 and 51 respectively.

**Table 1**

Question	Yes (%)	No (%)
Q1 - Do you agree with the vision for Harlow @100?	55	45
Q2 - Do you agree that the vision should look to 2047 for Harlow?	60	40
Q3 - Should the vision set out any other ambitions or priorities for Harlow to 2047?	72	28
Q4 - What do you think the vision for the future of Harlow should be?*	N/A	N/A
Q5 - Do you think future growth in Harlow should come forward through a mix of greenfield and brownfield sites, redevelopment of existing sites and both small and larger sites?	71	29
Q6 - Do you think future growth in Harlow should come forward through a range of dwelling types including opportunities for more high rise buildings/flats close to public transport and the town centre?	72	28
Q7 – What design principles should help shape Harlow as a place?*	N/A	N/A
Q8 - Should existing neighbourhoods and employment areas mirror the same quality, design and energy efficiency as new developments?	85	15

<b>Question</b>	<b>Yes (%)</b>	<b>No (%)</b>
Q9 – Do you agree that Sir Frederick Gibberd’s principles should remain an essential element of Harlow New Town?	91	9
Q10 – What types of housing do you think it is important to provide in Harlow?*	N/A	N/A
Q11 – Do you support Harlow Council in achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2040, in advance of Government targets?	91	9
Q12 – Do you support measures that help to achieve sustainability in development and transport?	89	11
Q13 – Do you agree with the transport initiatives set out in this section of the Town Plan?	72	28
Q14 – Do you agree that the town centre should be developed into a series of areas, each with their own distinct use such as entertainment, eating, drinking and shopping?	76	24
Q15 – How do you think that open spaces, leisure facilities and other community assets in Harlow could be managed in the future?*	N/A	N/A
Q16 – Do you agree that Green Wedges and Green Fingers should be included in new developments around the town?	84	16
Q17 – Are there any sporting or leisure facilities that are lacking or require improvement in Harlow?	75	25
Q18 – Do you agree that the council should develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy?	93	7
Q19 – What improvements would you like to see made to your local neighbourhood centre, hatches or the street you live in?*	N/A	N/A
Q20 – Do you agree that there needs to be a longer term strategy for library provision in Harlow?	88	12
Q21 - Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the way the council’s buys goods and services (procurement)?*	N/A	N/A
Q22 – How can local businesses and organisations be better considered in the council’s procurement process?*	N/A	N/A
Q23 - Please provide any comments on waste and recycling services and facilities below*	N/A	N/A
Q24 – How can the council and residents put Harlow ‘on the map’ and really promote the town, the facilities and services we have and the opportunities it provides?*	N/A	N/A

Question	Yes (%)	No (%)
Q25 – What further information would you like to know about Harlow?*	N/A	N/A

\* *open-ended question*

## DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

7. This section provides summaries of responses to the open-ended questions. Various topics were raised across the answers to questions, so the summaries are organised by topic, with references to the questions the responses were answered under. Council responses, where necessary, are ***bold and italicised***.

### Safety (Qs 3a, 4 & 7)

8. Many respondents raised the need to commit to increasing and improving policing, whilst increasing the overall safety of the town by reducing anti-social behaviour. A point was also raised regarding ensuring young people are better educated about crime.
9. Respondents suggested that perception of safety is considered, specifically Secured by Design and associated accreditation, Safe System / Vision Zero approach to road layout and design, and Health Impact Assessments reflecting the health and wellbeing of the community.
10. Other issues relating to preventing crime through design which were suggested relate to access and movement, structure, surveillance, ownership, physical protection and management & maintenance.

### Development (Qs 3a, 4, 6a & 7)

11. There were mixed views regarding the expansion of Harlow, with some believing there should be a commitment to the town becoming a bigger authority or even merging with others, while some felt expansion should be avoided to stop it becoming a mini city.
12. Among the other points raised for the vision of future development were the importance of the use of brownfield land, adherence to the original Gibberd principles and the importance of the Garden Town being 'ultra green'. A point was also raised about the need for strong, energetic leadership to change the direction of Harlow.
13. ***The Harlow Local Development Plan (HLDP) prioritises the use of brownfield land over greenfield land and ensures adherence to the original Gibberd principles where relevant. The Garden Town is focussed on the Garden City principles, which ensure sustainability is at the heart of development and that***

**expansion of Harlow will be planned and delivered in a suitable way that respects existing development and delivers new opportunities for new and existing residents.**

14. Respondents recognised the opportunity for the use of brownfield land in the town centre for housing, including high-rise. There was also a general recognition of the need for development and expansion to aid regeneration – so long as appropriate infrastructure was in place first – although respondents indicated the creation of a ‘metropolis’ should be avoided.
15. It was also suggested that green spaces should be incorporated into development as a priority, to reflect the original Gibberd principles, and that transport links must be improved, including to Epping railway station. One point was made about the possibility of removing out-of-town retail areas to use them for housing, as well as the removal of older buildings and warehouse employment areas. Other respondents recognised the need for a mix of social and private housing in new developments.
16. The Harlow Civic Society supports the Garden City and concept of facilities within walking distance, but emphasised that it should be explained how principles are to be achieved, and that statements and activities about placemaking and community and social development should be added.
17. A point was also raised about the need for design and adaptation to create inclusive and accessible environments.
18. ***The HLDP protects green spaces and ensure new provision is provided in new developments, as well as ensuring a mix of housing types and tenures and the use of brownfield land for new development wherever possible. The Harlow Design Guide (and Addendum) ensures design and adaptation create inclusive and accessible environments.***
19. Epping Forest DC raised concerns regarding whether a different set of design principles will need to be considered that reflect different approaches to development now reflected in the NPPF and elsewhere, and that clear justification is required if divergence from the HGGT sites and principles is suggested. They also suggested that new buildings must operate at net-zero by 2030.
20. ***Divergence from the HGGT sites and principles is not suggested. New buildings operating at net-zero by 2030 may be considered in a review of the HLDP.***

#### **Education (Qs 3a & 4)**

21. Respondents felt the vision should address education as a priority, with a number of suggestions including adding commitments to Lifelong Learning, the recreation of

the Science Education Centre and creation of a grammar school. A point was also made about the vision ensuring children are supported to meet their full potential.

### **Environment (Qs 3a, 4, 6a & 7)**

22. The environment was another key issue for respondents to this question, with suggestions that there should be a great commitment to retaining, protecting, maintaining and enhancing green spaces, biodiversity, ecology, wildlife and the Green Wedges and Green Fingers.
23. Among this, points were also raised for emphasis in the vision regarding reducing car usage, reducing pollution, addressing the climate crisis, increasing access to green spaces, creating more green spaces for children, allocating land for food growth and enhancing and maintaining heritage assets including the town's sculptures. Concerns were also raised about the time it takes to see a return on increased energy efficiency and the cost of retrofitting existing buildings.
24. Respondents highlighted the importance of protection and enhancement of green spaces and habitats, and the use of the Environment Act's net-gain in biodiversity to aid this. Concerns were raised about infill development and the wider Garden Town removing green spaces.
25. ***The HLDP policies & supporting guidance and Council strategies & policies ensure the above points are strongly addressed in new and existing developments, to ensure the environment of Harlow is protected and enhanced now and in the future.***
26. Respondents also suggested that the good work on improving the Town Park should continue, as well as planting new trees across the district. The positive impacts of green spaces on mental health were also recognised, as well as the opportunity for natural shading to be provided in green spaces.
27. ***The Council is committed to the further enhancement of green spaces in Harlow through a number of forthcoming projects. The Council is also contributing to work on a joint Green Infrastructure Strategy across the Garden Town area, which will inform Green Infrastructure management in Harlow in the longer term.***
28. Eastwick, Gilston & Hunsdon Parish Councils also suggested that the Stort Valley corridor should be considered as a blue and green corridor of significance, and that a public realm strategy is created to manage the Green Wedges and cycle highways.

## Housing (Qs 3a, 4, 6a & 7)

29. Respondents particularly considered that housing should be a key part of the vision, particularly the provision of better quality affordable houses, especially for young adults, as well as the replacement of council housing and the need to provide a complete range of types and tenures.
30. Points were also raised about avoiding the use of high-rise residential, continuing to address HMO issues, and removing housing which had been converted from offices/warehouses.
31. Respondents made a variety of suggestions for housing. As with other responses to the Town Plan, importance was placed on having a variety of tenures for all age groups and families, both private and council housing, with good access to public transport, appropriate density, adherence to Gibberd's principles, provision of gardens and the end of use of office buildings for housing. Points were also made about the importance of development having character to differentiate between old and new developments, with good quality being a priority.
32. Some respondents opposed the use of high-rise flats, due to health and safety grounds in light of the Grenfell Tower disaster, as well as problems with parking and privacy. The Harlow Civic Society stated that the use of limited high-rise in the town centre, less than 20 storeys high, is appropriate.
33. ***Policies in the HLDP ensure as much affordable housing as possible is provided, and that a wide range of types and tenures of housing are provided in new development, preferably with good access to public transport. The Design Guide Addendum provides guidance on private amenity space in new developments. HMO issues are managed by the Council using Environmental Health tools, as well as Planning tools such as Article 4 Directions.***
34. ***The Harlow Design Guide Addendum provides guidance on tall buildings in the town, to ensure they are safe and provide sufficient amenities for residents. The removal of housing which has been converted from offices/warehouses is not possible, as such conversions are allowed under central Government 'permitted development' rules.***
35. The lack of space for housing in the district was recognised and a suggestion was made that neighbouring districts should provide more. It was also suggested that the Council should have more ownership, with increased sheltered housing and CPO powers to renovate derelict housing.
36. ***Discussions with adjoining local authorities, regarding wider housing requirements, will continue under the Duty to Co-operate when the HLDP is reviewed in full.***

37. Respondents raised the importance of designing well-built housing with good-quality materials and a minimum floorspace, with the development having a dedicated neighbourhood centre and an overall classic style of development which won't become outdated. The importance of recognisable landmarks, carbon-neutral construction, provision of electric charging points and high energy efficiency standards were also commented on. It was also recognised that communities could be helped to form by, in part, ensuring easy access to green space.
38. ***The above points are addressed by the HLDP and Design Guide (and Addendum).***

### **Housing, continued (Q10)**

39. Respondents recognised the need for affordable housing, both social and rented, both private and council-owned. Among ideas to aid this, suggested by respondents, were caps on landlord rent, the reduction of private renting, reduction of service charges for flats and the reduction of outside agencies using the housing.
40. Respondents reiterated the need for all types of housing to be provided, including annexes for elderly people, bungalows and family homes, as well as an encouragement of home ownership. Further ideas included the encouragement of downsizing, use of modular homes, allocation of specialist units for victims to have safe accommodation, build-to-rent and shared/co-living opportunities. A developer raised the issue of balancing against viability issues.
41. ***See above for information on how the HLDP ensures a mix of housing is provided, including affordable housing.***
42. Both Eastwick with Gilston & Hunsdon Parish Council and Epping Forest DC stated concerns over the reference to "adjoining areas" regarding delivery of social housing. Epping Forest DC also suggested reviewing proportions (of affordable housing?) to 40% in a review of the Local Plan.
43. The Harlow Civic Society suggested that the term "affordable" be replaced with something which reflects the real economic situations of low-income families.
44. ***Affordable housing issues in planning will be reviewed during the full review of the HLDP.***

### **Economy (Qs 3a, 4 & 6a)**

45. Respondents provided a range of points, including attracting higher-skilled businesses and upskilling current and future residents – and as part of this, helping younger people into employment. It was also suggested that the vision should see the Enterprise Zones being used to their full potential, hatches and neighbourhood

centres being regenerated, business rates being reviewed and green industries being developed with digital technology.

46. Essex County Council raised the issue of employment land and floorspace being in high demand and that allocation of new employment sites should be considered a priority.
47. ***The HLDP provides policies regarding the regeneration of hatches and neighbourhood centres. This is also a key priority for the Council. New employment land has been allocated in the HLDP and this will be reviewed when the HLDP is fully reviewed.***

#### **Town Centre (Qs 3a, 4 & 7)**

48. A particular element that respondents raised for the vision of the town centre was the importance of regeneration to provide a number of improvements, including more evening/night-life and cultural venues and the 'greening' of the centre. There were also suggestions made including removing betting shops and takeaways so they can be used for other purposes to improve the existing good range of shops available, along with the reintroduction of the market. It was also suggested that housing in the centre should be avoided.
49. It was suggested by respondents that the town centre is badly designed and prioritises car owners, with ad-hoc development causing a loss of the town centre's heart.
50. ***The Council is committed to the regeneration of the town centre and considers it a priority, to ensure Harlow is a place where people want to visit, live and work. The above issues are being addressed in the forthcoming Town Centre Framework SPD.***

#### **Town Centre, continued (Q14a)**

51. Respondents generally endorsed the idea of regenerating the town centre, with the possibility of different quarters for leisure, housing and shopping, along with better integration of the Water Gardens with the rest of the town centre. However, some respondents raised concerns around distinct quarters being 'dead' at certain times of day and possible associated crime issues, meaning police presence would need increasing but, preferably, crime would be 'designed out' during development and increased security and surveillance.
52. Suggestions regarding the quarters included Market Square for entertainment and the market, Water Gardens for shops and food. However, respondents also recognised the current lack of entertainment and cultural opportunities and made suggestions to develop Harlow's cultural heritage, including a new theatre, exhibition centre and concert hall, along with free parking.

53. There was also an awareness in the responses regarding the changing nature of retail, thanks largely to online shopping, and the challenges this brings including higher vacancy rates, the increasing competition between shopping areas, and the future of the town needing to incorporate uses other than retail.
54. Suggestions were made for an improved pedestrian and cyclist experience on the approach to the town centre, particularly from the railway station, as well as improved public realm, greening and landscaping in the town centre.
55. It was also identified in the responses that further healthcare is likely to be needed in the town centre, so areas need to be flexible to react to changes.
56. ***The Council is committed to the regeneration of the town centre and considers it a priority, to ensure Harlow is a place where people want to visit, live and work. The above issues are being addressed in the forthcoming Town Centre Framework SPD.***

#### **Community (Qs 3a & 4)**

57. Respondents considered that the community – and in particular a sense of pride in the town – was an important element for the vision, to ensure Harlow is considered the best place to live and run a business.
58. As well as this, suggestions were made to promote education, arts & performance, and commit to a thriving voluntary sector with sufficient social, leisure and cultural activities. It was also suggested that initiatives should be referenced in the vision, such as Help Through Art, as well as ensuring the happiness of residents and ensuring elderly people are well cared for, including outdoor leisure and sports provision for older people.

#### **General Infrastructure (Qs 3a & 4)**

59. Infrastructure in the town was raised by many respondents and how this could form part of the vision. There was a general feeling among respondents that infrastructure in the town should be improved and in place before further development takes place, including the creation of new infrastructure ranging from creating a new ring road around the town to creating a new recycling centre.
60. ***The HLDP provides policy requirements relating to infrastructure, and the associated Infrastructure Delivery Plan provides information on the delivery of infrastructure in relation to new development.***

#### **Transport (Qs 3a & 4)**

61. Regarding transport, concerns were raised over the effectiveness of the Sustainable Transport Corridors (STCs), while others recognised that they should have higher

priority in the vision. Linked to this, respondents stated the importance of improving roads and their surface quality, creating park & ride to reduce congestion and parking issues, keeping cars out of the town centre, and providing better bus links with an improved bus station.

62. ***The STCs are considered a priority by the Council, to ensure transport is improved in the town and modal shift is improved in the early stages of new major development as part of the Garden Town.***

### **Transport, continued (Q13a)**

63. A number of general initiatives were suggested, including mapping of walking routes, improving road safety for mobility scooters, refreshing underpasses, legitimising electric scooters and providing safe routes for active travel for primary schools. It was also suggested that more information should be provided on how sustainable transport methods will be achieved and the options available.
64. Regarding cycling, suggestions by respondents included cycle path improvements (including lighting), new paths alongside roads and off roads, more secure cycle parking and a programme to educate people on cycling on the road.
65. There was a mix of suggestions for public transport initiatives. Issues with the cost, frequency and reliability of public transport were raised, as well as the need for improvements to services which run to well-used nodes such as Epping tube station. Suggestions were also made that local public transport should be free for residents and that use should be encouraged in people from an early age.
66. While a suggestion was made for the introduction of trams, one point was made that new systems – including an extension of the Central Line – could damage the environment during their construction. Other respondents also expressed concerns over the feasibility of extending the Central Line.
67. Respondents raised concerns about the discouragement of car use, including how a weekly shop isn't possible without a car. It was also suggested that residential parking be improved, electric charging points be installed, car share initiatives be encouraged and improvements made to roads.
68. ***The HLDP addresses issues including electric car charging points and bicycle parking in developments.***
69. The Harlow Civic Society raised concerns regarding use of phrases like 'world-leading' not being quantified and lack of clarity on how an improved transport system would be funded. They support, however, a focus on improving the cycling network, the STCs (although question the focus on town centre journeys), extension of London Transport travel zones to Harlow, Crossrail 2 connectivity and upgrading links to Epping tube station.

70. The Eastwick with Gilston & Hunsdon Parish Council stated that the station transport interchange is poorly designed and that development must be planned effectively to meet modal shift.

### **Health (Qs 3a & 4)**

71. Regarding health, respondents felt that better facilities for the improved hospital should be a key part of the vision, including enhanced health care provision and access.

### **Sir Frederick Gibberd's principles (Q9a)**

72. There was a general feeling among the responses that Sir Frederick Gibberd's legacy has been successful, with neighbourhood areas remaining key and lessons being learned from his original plans, but that certain elements of his principles should be made more explicit, such as those relating to open spaces.
73. Green spaces were one of Gibberd's main principles in the design of Harlow, and respondents recognise the need to continue this legacy by keeping green spaces around the town and between neighbourhoods.
74. However, respondents also recognised that Gibberd didn't envisage Newhall and Gilston and that his principles shouldn't prevent new ideas and creativity. Additionally, respondents recognised that many areas of Harlow could be improved and brought up to standards.
75. ***As explained previously, the HLDP, in its policies, continues to apply the principles of Gibberd where relevant, particularly in relation to the protection and enhancement of the Green Wedges and Green Fingers (among other issues).***

### **Sustainability (Q12a)**

76. Regarding car usage, respondents made a number of suggestions including no or reduced parking charge for electric cars, free charging for employers, electric points in car parks, discouraging car use and ensuring only one car per household.
77. ***The Essex County Council Car Parking Standards for new developments are currently being updated.***
78. It was suggested for cycling that routes should continue beyond the town centre and be maintained in a good condition to encourage use.
79. Suggestions were made by respondents regarding affordable options for public transport, as well as more efficient buses using hydrogen and electric energy, and the redevelopment and improvement of the bus station.

80. Regarding net-zero, respondents were supportive but suggested discounts for residents due to the high initial costs. Opinions on the different types of alternative power were provided, including wind power being noisy and visually unpleasant, and hydrogen power being the best option.
81. There were also mixed views on whether Harlow should go ahead of the government targets on net-zero. Some respondents stated that net-zero by 2040 is too late (and one respondent even stated the Council should take a greater lead and increase Council tax as a result if necessary), while others stated Harlow shouldn't try to go ahead of the government. It was also suggested that sustainability should be better defined.
82. ***The HLDP will consider the requirement of net-zero buildings in the next full review.***
83. A point was also made that developers should use the 'safe system approach' when designing local roads, to ensure rapid access for emergency vehicles.
84. A developer raised the point that the modal shift target relies on a step-change in travel patterns in the community, and that the overall Town Plan should place greater importance on wide benefits of strategic infrastructure.
85. The Harlow Civic Society raised a particular point about whether low traffic neighbourhoods would feature along with an emphasised focus on safer roads and support measures to achieve sustainability in development and transport.
86. Eastwick with Gilston and Hunsdon Parish Council raised a concern over the lack of links between sustainability and biodiversity, and lack of clarity on how the Eastern Stort Crossing achieves sustainable transport.

### **Asset Management (Q15)**

87. Respondents gave the management of Pets Corner as an example of how management of assets should be undertaken in the future, including ensuring local community groups have a role in management. There were also suggestions that such management should include giving discounts to local residents to encourage greater use.
88. Eastwick with Gilston & Hunsdon Parish Council suggested that there should be a single legacy body to manage all legacy open spaces, so ownership could rest with the community and wouldn't be a commercial outfit. Epping Forest DC also raised the Garden Town-wide approach to stewardship. The Harlow Civic Society also similarly commented. However, the Eastwick with Gilston and Hunsdon Parish Council also stated that they do not share the ambition that Harlow will have a role to play in governance of Gilston Garden Villages or that a single legacy trust under the aegis of the HGGT board will be the right way to manage stewardship.

## **Sport and Leisure Facilities (Q17a)**

89. Respondents provided examples of facilities requiring improvement. These included:

- a. Allotments
- b. Playhouse (increase in size)
- c. Harlow rock school (needs bigger facilities)
- d. Football pitches and tennis courts
- e. Sport accessibility in general
- f. Parks and equipment in them
- g. Facilities for people with disabilities
- h. General litter issues
- i. Increased use of museum

90. Examples of facilities that are lacking included:

- a. Concerts in park and music venues
- b. Ballroom dancing, trampolining, snow sports and water park
- c. Pitch and putt, bowling, hockey, skating rink, ski slope, riding school, outdoor gym facilities, lit and secure running circuits, open air swimming pool, cycling track, gymnastics club centre, badminton and squash courts
- d. Football league
- e. Grassroots youth sports club

## **Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Q18a)**

91. A number of suggestions were made by respondents regarding what could be included in the Strategy. These included:

- a. Commitment to Sure Start (or similar)
- b. Walking routes and groups for the elderly and people with dementia
- c. Neighbourhood resident groups, community projects, charity work, after-school activities and youth schemes
- d. Active lifestyle champion
- e. Commitment to increase doctor surgeries and provisions of accessible healthcare facilities
- f. Discouraging poor diets
- g. Reopening public toilets
- h. Organic food markets
- i. A wellbeing hub
- j. Greater mental health support
- k. Zero tolerance to alcohol and drug abuse
- l. Open space access
- m. Safe, secure and accessible developments

92. Epping Forest DC stated that duplication of work through the Essex Live Well campaign should be avoided.

### **Local improvements to neighbourhood centres, hatches or streets (Q19)**

93. Parking was a key issue for respondents and suggestions included lifting front garden parking restrictions, ensuring garages are not used for storage, restricting commercial vehicles entering estates, installing charging points and stopping cars parking on footpaths and verges.
94. Within neighbourhood centres and hatches, safety at night was identified by respondents as a problem. It was also suggested that The Stow and Bush Fair in particular require improvements (including Essex Police who specifically suggested regeneration of these neighbourhood centres), while there needs to be a greater choice of independent shops at hatches and an increase in community hubs and health facilities. The Harlow Civic Society also recognised the reduction in need to travel if hatches and neighbourhood centres are improved.
95. ***The Council are committed to the regeneration of the neighbourhood centres and hatches, and the HLDP provides policies relating to this.***
96. Various potential general environmental improvements at a local level were also identified, including in relation to litter, cleaning, signage replacement, painting and redevelopment of council houses, replacement railings and better street lighting.

### **Longer term strategy for library provision in Harlow (Q20a)**

97. Respondents contributed ideas on how libraries in Harlow could be improved. These included:
- a. Wider reading choice, modernisation and information made available on local charitable groups
  - b. Longer opening hours
  - c. Increased mobile libraries
  - d. Diversification of uses to include cafes and community meeting spaces
  - e. Use of online membership
  - f. Drop-ins for council services
  - g. Use of volunteers to reduce costs
  - h. Toilet installation
  - i. Promotion in schools
98. The Harlow Civic Society raised a question as to why libraries have a separate theme in the plan but arts and culture do not.

## **Improvements to the way the council's buys goods and services (procurement) (Q21)**

99. Respondents made a number of suggestions for improvements. These included:

- a. Staff with expertise
- b. Joining with other authorities for more buying power
- c. Be competitive and more transparent
- d. Anti-corruption initiative
- e. Source from local suppliers and businesses
- f. Ensure goods and services are best value for money (not always cheapest), potentially including buying in bulk
- g. Greater in-house work
- h. Investment in companies with net zero targets
- i. Application of relevant security standard for security goods
- j. Greater publicity for upcoming procurement and purchases

100. Eastwick, Gilston & Hunsdon Parish Councils commented that it was unclear why the procurement strategy is part of the plan.

## **Considering local businesses and organisations in the council's procurement process (Q22)**

101. Respondents made a number of suggestions. These included:

- a. Developing register of local businesses and organisations that meet criteria of benefiting local community
- b. Advertising procurement opportunities more widely
- c. Offering support
- d. Consultation with local businesses
- e. Include business representatives on procurement panels

## **Waste and recycling services and facilities (Q23)**

102. Respondents made a number of suggestions for improvements. These included:

- a. Collections need to be more regular across Harlow
- b. Greater range of materials which can be recycled
- c. New recycling centre built
- d. Restoration of heavy squad service
- e. 'Swap item' schemes
- f. Longer opening times and increased disability access
- g. Remove trade waste restriction
- h. Increase bins and bin sizes
- i. Energy generation from waste
- j. Neighbourhood recycling points

## **Putting Harlow 'on the map' and promoting the town and its facilities, services and opportunities (Q24)**

103. Respondents made a number of suggestions. These included:
- a. Digital and paper guides, articles on social media and local press, tourist information centre, improved website, regular newsletter and notice boards
  - b. General maintenance and cleaning of the town, including verges, furniture, signage and planting
  - c. Leading on tackling the climate crisis, improving transport services and ensuring exemplar new development
  - d. Ensuring safety is improved
  - e. Promoting Harlow as a sculpture town and destination for culture, art, entertainment, leisure, retail and business
  - f. Walking and cycling tours for local art with events
  - g. Town manager role created
  - h. Attraction of department stores
  - i. Promoting small businesses
  - j. Work with third-sector organisations and initiatives
  - k. Encourage students to attend university
  - l. Greater Councillor activity

## **Requests for further information about Harlow (Q25)**

104. Respondents had various requests, including:
- a. Detailed map showing all offerings
  - b. Progress on demolition and construction projects, development plans (including scale of town's expansion) and other improvements
  - c. What makes this document different from others
  - d. Activities
  - e. Offers from local businesses
  - f. Services offered by local churches and groups

## **NEXT STEPS**

105. These comments will be reviewed, along with those received at the Cabinet Policy Development Working Group, and then incorporated into a final draft document for discussion.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Strategic Growth and Regeneration**

The Town Plan seeks to develop a longer term vision for Harlow, beyond the current Local Plan period, to look at how Harlow may develop by the time Harlow is 100 years old in 2047. The document is still in its early stages of development and this first stage consultation will help to shape the document into a second draft for further discussion with Members.

**Author: Andrew Bramidge, Director of Strategic Growth and Regeneration**

### **Finance**

None specific.

**Author: Simon Freeman, Director of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive**

### **Housing**

None specific.

**Author: Andrew Murray, Director of Housing**

### **Communities and Environment**

None specific

**Author: Jane Greer, Director of Communities and Environment**

### **Governance**

None specific.

**Author: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services**

### **Appendices**

None.

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

CPO – Compulsory Purchase Order

DC – District Council

HGGT – Harlow and Gilston Garden Town

HLDP – Harlow Local Development Plan

HMO – House in Multiple Occupation

NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework

SPD – Supplementary Planning Document

STC – Sustainable Transport Corridor



## Cabinet Policy Development Working Group Work Plan 2021/22

Work	Thursday 5 August 2021	Thursday 7 October 2021	Thursday 25 November 2021	Thursday 13 January 2022	Thursday 10 March 2022
Local Council Tax Support Scheme			Report		
Treasury Management Strategy			Report		
Housing Strategy				Report	
Climate Change Strategy		Report		Report	Position Statement
Transport Strategy		Report			
Town Plan	Report				Report
Carbon Management Plan	Report				
Open Space Supplementary Planning Document – Approval for Consultation		Report			
Health and Wellbeing Strategy					
Local Plan – Statement of Community Involvement		Report			