

**Draft**

**Vision for the Recovery of Harlow**

*“To harness the positive aspects of the community response to the Covid-19 crisis and address the negative outcomes such that the Harlow that emerges - its residents, businesses and voluntary groups – is stronger, more resilient and poised to take full strategic advantage of the opportunities for growth and renewal.”*

## **We will achieve this by:**

### **Corporate Themes**

Promoting within everything that it does for the recovery of the town, the strategic priorities of its Corporate Plan:

- Recovery and Resilience (NEW – subject to Council approval)
- More and Better Housing
- Regeneration and a Thriving Economy
- Wellbeing and Social Inclusion
- A Clean and Green Environment
- Successful Children and Young People

Acknowledging the role that the Working Group will have in promoting a plan for recovery.

Managing and recording Harlow Council's recovery response to the COVID-19 pandemic to meet its priorities as a community leader, and fulfil the requirements as a local authority under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to "take the lead in facilitating the rehabilitation of the community and the restoration of the environment."

Seeking to remove the barriers that keep people beyond the reach of employment, services, jobs and other socio-economic recovery measures and opportunities.

Maximising the opportunities for innovative ways of future working across the Council and with partners, its own LATCO and other stakeholders (such as the voluntary sector) to the benefit of the local community and business sector.

Preparation and planning to ensure, with other public sector agencies, that in the face of future outbreaks or emergencies, all residents are given the best possible health protection and outcomes, particularly those at risk of health inequalities.

Securing the best possible regeneration and infrastructure improvement outcomes for the town across the wider HGGT area in the context that they promote residents' health and wellbeing and economic recovery.

Harnessing data and monitoring performance to ensure that services delivered post COVID-19, meet the changing needs of residents and businesses.

Ensuring the community is kept informed about Council's and other related bodies' actions to keep them safe and prioritise their well-being as we adjust to a new and uncertain reality and seek to build individual and collective resilience.

## **Workstream Themes**

### **Community Impact:**

1. To ensure the physical, mental, and socio-economic wellbeing of all residents of Harlow is recovered to pre-pandemic levels or above through analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the community by undertaking data analysis; initiating meaningful dialogue with community, voluntary sector, faith and cultural organisations and utilising feedback from the Council's frontline services.
2. To maintain a robust and thriving community and voluntary sector by maximising promotion and take-up of Government initiatives to support the sector and community; facilitating meaningful engagement and partnership working and supporting the development of new initiatives to meet needs identified through COVID-19 community impact assessment

### **Business & Economy Workstream,**

1. Increase the opportunities for advice, information, incentives and financial support to Harlow businesses, equipping them with the tools to prosper through the recovery phase.
2. Create and deliver a programme of active promotion of the Harlow economy to maximise opportunities for local businesses, to encourage business-to-business and local supply chain activity and to maximise the impact of the "Harlow pound"
3. Ensure young people in Harlow have access to information, advice, and opportunities for work and/or training to prevent a large cohort of young people emerging in Harlow without meaningful activity.
4. Securing partnerships with bodies and educational institutions to create a joined-up plan to promote the need for local employment opportunities, particularly for young people aged 18-24.
5. To actively look for examples of new ways of working and new business opportunities and to innovate them in Harlow.

### **Council Internal Services Workstream**

1. To plan for the new 'normal' and any changes and/or challenges this may present to the Council's operating model and structures.
2. To ensure the continuation and where necessary the restoration of service provision to Harlow residents and businesses.
3. To work with all government guidance to ensure that strategic objectives are compliant and Covid safe.
4. Harnessing data and monitoring performance to ensure that services delivered post COVID-19, meet the changing needs of residents and businesses.

### **HTS Group Workstream**

1. To improve business resilience and efficiency by a review of HTS business plans, priorities and business continuity; enhanced communication plans aligned to Council communication plans and a robust gap analysis and performance reporting.
2. To reassess HTS community impact by its social value programme and reporting.

3. To monitor HTS environmental impact through its landscape programmes and policies reviews.
4. To create opportunities through the HTS Group business and commercial growth plans, particularly in the area of apprenticeships, training and employment for young people.
5. To show leadership within the local business community with regards to creating local opportunities for local people.