

Changing roads and transport in Market Harborough

Have your say on our
proposed transport strategy



Tell us what you think

Online: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/harborough-plans

For general enquiries or comments about this consultation phone
0116 305 0001 or email **MHTransportStrategy@leics.gov.uk**

Public consultation: the consultation runs from 16 January 2017
Submit your views by 24 March 2017

Why change?

As Market Harborough continues to grow to meet future local housing and employment needs, pressures on the local road network increase. The current Local Plan makes it clear that transport measures need to be considered to deal with the impact of development in the town.

In 2015 Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council approved work to explore in more detail current and future transport issues, identify possible transport solutions and develop a transport strategy for the town.

The area covered by this work is shown in the plan below. The study was completed in July 2016 and looked at vehicle movements to help understand how the transport network is being used. It also looked at where the greatest levels of congestion occurred on the network; and where these will occur in the future taking into account known future growth.



The work has outlined some initial ideas and proposals, which aim to

- help address current and potential future transport issues in the town
- help the town continue to thrive as it expands in the future.

We are now seeking your feedback on these initial ideas and proposals. We'd like you to tell us which schemes and measures you think should be progressed further to form part of a final approved transport strategy.

Whilst at this stage there is not enough funding to implement these proposals, the feedback that we receive from you through this consultation is an important step in helping us to strengthen our position when trying to secure additional funding. We'd therefore really like to hear your views. Once the consultation has been completed we will review and amend the draft strategy. Once the strategy has been agreed the next step will be to try and secure money from the government and other sources, so that we can develop and deliver priority schemes and measures.

This consultation is about roads and transport. **If you would like to comment on the levels and distribution of housing growth in the district** you can do this during the Local Plan submission consultation in summer 2017. The timetable for the Harborough Local Plan is below, and you can sign up to receive alerts and make representations during the consultation here: <https://harborough.jdi-consult.net/ldp/>

Harborough District Local Plan timetable

July 2017: Council approval of pre-submission Local Plan for publication

September - October 2017: Consultation on Local Plan pre-submission

November 2017: Submission of Local Plan to Secretary of State for public examination

February 2018: Examination Hearing

September 2018: Adoption of Local Plan

More information on the Harborough District Local Plan is available at:
www.harborough.gov.uk/local-plan

The challenges Market Harborough faces

Our work to date has identified a number of challenges for people travelling in Market Harborough:

- **The town faces significant growth pressures.** The current Local Plan indicates that in excess of 2,000 new homes are proposed in the town before 2031 (including a total of 1,500 dwellings in a Strategic Development Area (SDA) to the west of the town), in addition to the 825 dwellings built over the last five years.
- **Traffic volume in the town is forecast to increase by 24%** between 2011 and 2031. Much of this is the result of general traffic increases from growth in surrounding areas.
- **Some junctions within the study area perform more poorly than others**, resulting in queues or delays. These junctions are:
 - **A6 / B6047 (aka McDonalds Roundabout)**
 - **The Square / St Mary's Road / Coventry Road**
 - **Northampton Road / Springfield Street**
 - **Northampton Road / Welland Park Road**
 - **Springfield Street / Kettering Road**
 - **St Mary's Road / Kettering Road / Clarence Street**
 - **Rockingham Road / Gores Lane**
 - **A6 / Harborough Road / Dingley Road / A4304**
 - **Sainsbury's store entrance / Springfield Street**
- **Despite 'through' traffic accounting for only about 10%** of overall trips on the network during the peak traffic periods, two of the three 'A' and 'B' classified routes in the town (the B6047 and the A4304) converge on The Square and therefore **much of the traffic in the town is reliant upon using the heart of the town centre**, over 13,000 vehicles per day.
- The low underpass height of the Rockingham Road railway bridge results in HGVs using less suitable routes to access the town.
- Infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transport is generally good. However, there are some gaps, which would benefit from improving.
- Car parking on and off street needs to account for all users including residents, shoppers, visitors, disabled motorists, local businesses and workers.
- Early stakeholder workshops suggested that **the town centre environment needs refreshing**.
- Traffic signing can be inconsistent, cluttered and confusing in places and requires review.

This work aims to deliver:

- Improved performance of local roads in peak periods and more consistent, predictable and reliable journey times.
- Improved access to key services across the town (such as employment, education, health), particularly by public transport, bike and on foot.
- Traffic using the most appropriate routes.
- Local roads better able to cope with unplanned events, such as incidents on the A14.
- More journeys by public transport.
- A more attractive town in which to live, work and visit.

What are we consulting on?

We want to find out what you think about the key transport issues that have been identified, and the possible solutions. If you think we've missed any key transport issues, or have any transport ideas that you think would help improve the town, then we'd also like to hear from you.

We'd like to emphasise we are at a very early stage in the development of possible measures for Market Harborough none of the measures in this document have yet been agreed and we are open to considering other options. The feedback received from this consultation is an important step and will help to put us in a stronger position to secure government funding and from other sources for the development and delivery of any priority schemes and measures identified as part of the strategy.

We want to address the transport issues that are affecting the performance of the transport network, constraining the development of the town and affecting the local economy. Our current work has enabled us to identify some initial ideas for possible transport measures. At this point these have been divided into three categories based on their cost, complexity and potential impact on traffic on the network.

Category 1 measures:

Roads remain broadly unaltered other than improvements to key junctions. Walking and cycling, parking and traffic management improvements will also be introduced on the existing road network.

Category 2 measures:

Builds on Category 1, but these **measures result in changes to the way that traffic would move around the town**. It considers lorry weight restrictions, the reclassification of two roads (Welland Park Road and Coventry Road) and increasing the height of the Rockingham Road rail bridge to enable HGV's to use more appropriate routes.

Category 3 measures:

Builds on Categories 1 and 2, by also considering the introduction of a **relief road to the south-east of the town**.

Information on these measures is provided on the following pages. Further more detailed information is available online at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/harborough-plans

How the consultation will work

The consultation begins on 16 January 2017 and will end at midnight on 24 March 2017.

- To submit your views please fill out the consultation questionnaire and make sure it reaches us by midnight on 24 March at the latest.
- If you are able to, please complete the questionnaire online, as it will save us time and money. It's available online at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/harborough-plans
- Paper copies of the survey are available on request by calling 0116 305 0001. Paper copies can be handed in at the main reception at Harborough District Council and the Market Harborough Library.
- Alternatively you can send comments via email to MHTransportStrategy@leics.gov.uk
- A consultation event will also be held on **Saturday 28 January at the Market Harborough Indoor Market**, providing the opportunity for anyone that wishes to speak to County Council and Harborough District Council officers about the strategy.

Our proposals in detail – Category 1

Proposals:

Category 1 measures consist of improvements to encourage walking and cycling, junction capacity/congestion improvements and parking and traffic management improvements on the existing road network.

Benefits:

These measures would be relatively straight forward to deliver. They provide some localised congestion relief at junctions, improved connectivity for walking and cycling and better traffic and parking management at certain locations across the town. The measures do not significantly change the way traffic is routed through the town.

Package of measures



Junction capacity/congestion improvements.



Extend and enhance the walking and cycling network. Primary routes indicated, other routes linking primary routes are also proposed across the town.



Review locations where recorded vehicle speeds are in excess



of the threshold necessary to prompt enforcement actions



by the Police.



Extend the public realm to encompass the rail and bus terminals. Make improvements to existing materials and streetscape.



Network Rail led projects - track realignment, platform and train station improvements and level crossing at Little Bowden.



Review parking controls and the need for further controls across the town, with particular regard to permit parking in two areas - around the train station and town centre.



Localised public transport infrastructure improvements across the town.

Improved traffic signing across the town.

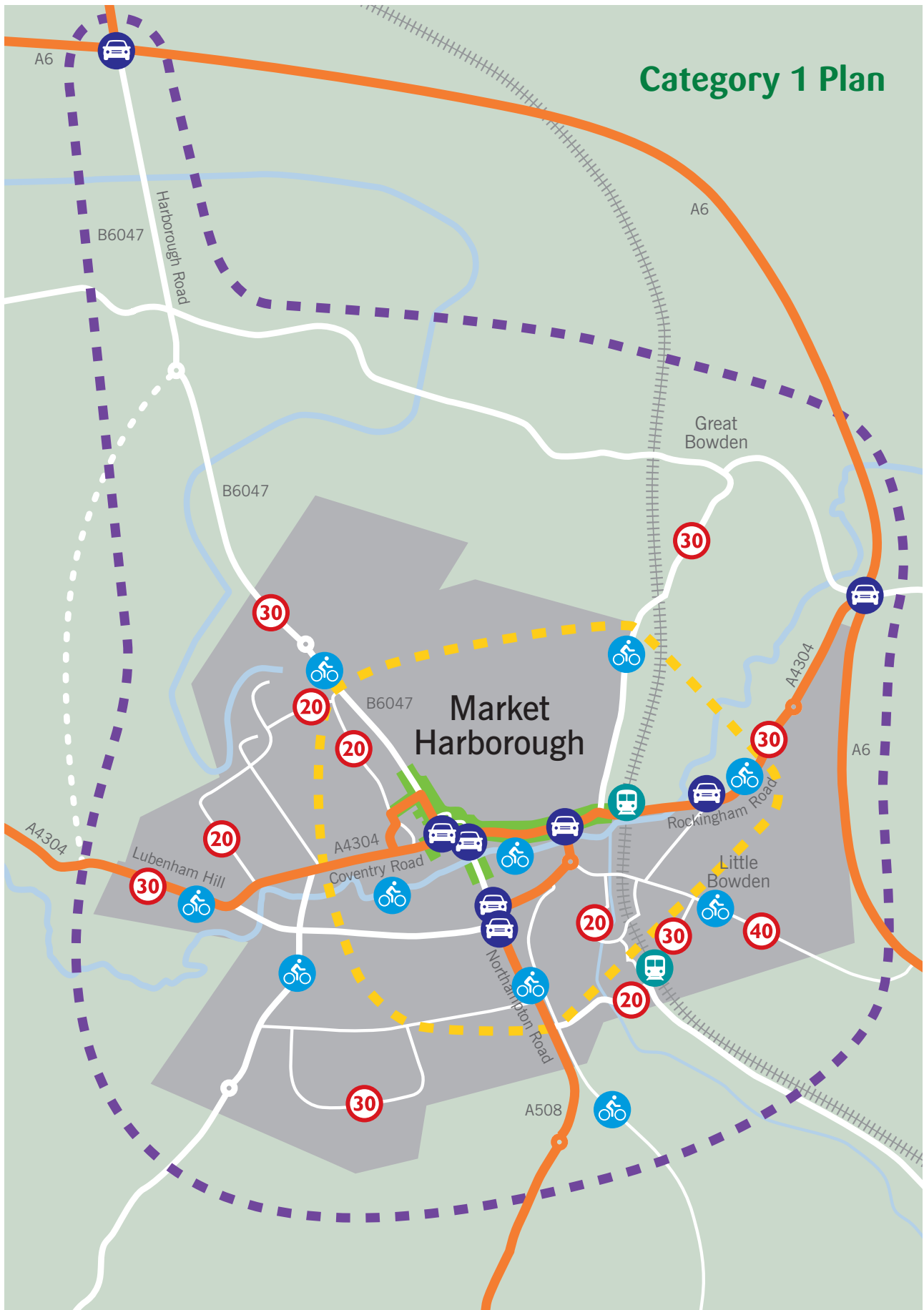
Initiatives to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport.



Existing main 'A' road network.



Indicative route of new road, to be provided as part of planned new development. The new road is not part of the proposals in this document.



Our proposals in detail – Category 2

■ Proposals:

Category 2 builds on and includes all of the Category 1 measures and further considers lorry weight restrictions, the reclassification of two roads (upgrading Welland Park Road and downgrading Coventry Road). It also considers increasing the underpass height of the Rockingham Road rail bridge, to enable HGVs to use appropriate routes.

■ Benefits:

These proposals would change the main traffic routes in the town encouraging traffic, including HGVs to use more appropriate routes relieving other less suitable ones. This could alleviate congestion at certain junctions and help relieve the volume of traffic in the town centre (The Square), providing the basis for more suitable emergency diversion routes following incidents on the A14.

■ Package of measures (In addition to Category 1 measures)

1 Increase the height of the Rockingham Road rail bridge. This would allow all high sided HGVs from the A6 to access the south side of the town without having to travel unnecessarily through the town centre (The Square).

2 With appropriate engineering and accommodation works on both routes:

2a) Upgrade Welland Park Road between Lubenham Hill and Northampton Road to the A4304.

2b) Downgrade the existing A4304 along Coventry Road between Lubenham Hill to the junction of St Marys Road / Kettering Road.

This would divert the A4304 and help redistribute existing unnecessary traffic away from the town centre.

2c) Reverse the existing one way on Abbey Street (to require all vehicles to travel west bound) to further deter the use of Coventry Road.

3 Make St Marys Road one way from The Square towards the Kettering Road / Clarence Street junction.

or


Make St Marys Road one way from The Square to Adam and Eve Street.

In addition signalise the junction of Church Square / High Street and remove the existing zebra crossing across High Street.

These would help reduce traffic movements in the Square.

4 Identify unsuitable routes for HGVs and impose suitable HGV weight restrictions.

 Resultant main 'A' road network.

 Indicative route of new road, to be provided as part of planned new development. The new road is not part of the proposals in this document.

The route will not be classified as an 'A' or 'B' road, however in order to maximise the potential benefits of the new road, it is proposed for it to be used by all traffic except those with a maximum gross weight in excess of 18 tonnes (except for loading).



Our proposals in detail – Category 3

■ Proposals:

Category 3 builds on and includes all of the Category 1 and 2 measures and further considers the principle of providing a relief road between the A508 and A6 to the south-east of the town.

This would be the most costly and complex measure and could not be delivered in the short term.

■ Benefits:

The relief road would divert the main A4304 away from the centre of the town, potentially diverting through traffic and HGVs away from the town centre.


However, the relief road is likely to cost in the region of £35 - £45 million and therefore if the scheme forms part of the approved transport strategy further more detailed analysis of the impact, the benefits and the costs would be required.

The route of the relief road shown on the map is only indicative.

■ Package of measures (In addition to Category 1 and 2 measures)

- 1 Consider providing a relief road to the south east of the town** between the A508 Northampton Road and A6, therefore diverting the primary A4304 route away from Rockingham Road and the town centre.

 Resultant main 'A' road network.

 Indicative route of new road, to be provided as part of planned new development. The new road is not part of the proposals in this document.

The route will not be classified as an 'A' or 'B' road, however in order to maximise the potential benefits of the new road, it is proposed for it to be used by all traffic except those with a maximum gross weight in excess of 18 tonnes (except for loading).



What happens next ?

Once the consultation is finished, views will be assessed and reported to the County Council's Cabinet and District Council's Executive. If the transport strategy is approved, the next step will be to seek to secure funding from the Government and other sources to develop and introduce transport measures identified in the approved strategy. The feedback we receive from you through this consultation is an important step in helping us refine the transport strategy to put us in a stronger position to develop a business case to secure Government as well as other sources of funding.

Please note that we are at an early stage of planning for these schemes. Any scheme that we would take forward will be subject to further design and consultation at a later stage. So if you are concerned about how any of these schemes would impact your house or the local environment, please note there will be opportunities to express these fully at a later stage of the process. At this point in time, we want to understand which measures will work best to address current and potential future traffic issues in town.



You can view the latest information in a number of ways

Visit us online www.leicestershire.gov.uk/harborough-plans

Our web pages will be kept up-to-date with the latest information and developments. You'll also be able to access the survey here.



Follow us @leicscountyhall for general updates from the council, including the developments on the budget.

Alternatively, you can telephone 0116 305 0001 to ask for information in printed or alternative formats.

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ ઇચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 0001 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને અમે આપને મદદ કરવા વ્યવસ્થા કરીશું.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0116 305 0001 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਦਵਾਂਗੇ।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 0001 এই নম্বরে ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں 0116 305 0001 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，請致電 0116 305 0001，我們會安排有關人員為你提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 0001, a my Ci pomożemy.

This information is also available in Easy Read format



Call **0116 305 0001**

or email **MHTransportstrategy@leics.gov.uk**