



Harborough District Council

Council Tax Guide 2025-26

Contents

Welcome.....	3
Your council tax explained.....	4
Financial information	4
Where your money goes	5
Council tax valuation bands.....	6
Council Tax Support Scheme.....	7
How to pay.....	7
Discounts	9
Exemptions.....	11
Special expenses and local parish precepts.....	12
Local parish precepts	13
Flood defence	14

This leaflet is available in large print electronically as a PDF at www.harborough.gov.uk/counciltax

If you would like this leaflet in another language, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us.

Email: customer.services@harborough.gov.uk

Keep up to date with all the latest news from Harborough District Council:

Newsletter:
www.harborough.gov.uk/harborough-news

Website: www.harborough.gov.uk

Twitter: [@harboroughdc](https://twitter.com/harboroughdc)

Welcome to the Harborough District Council Tax Guide

Harborough District Council is responsible for collecting council tax in the district, which is then distributed to authorities providing public services in the district:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Leicestershire Fire Authority
- Harborough District Council
- Parish and town councils

Please read on to find out about the different ways to pay your council tax, discounts and exemptions, and support schemes.

Drowning in paper?

Register for #paperfree in just a few minutes

Council tax – Business rates – Benefits

www.harborough.gov.uk/paperfree



Your council tax explained

Council tax is a local tax used to fund local services. Council tax contributes to Council, police and fire services, together with income from Government grants and other charges.

Owner-occupiers usually have to pay their council tax bill. In rented homes, the tenants have to pay. In the case of the majority of empty homes, the owner has to pay. The owners of the following properties also pay council tax:

- Residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels
- Those occupied by:
 - a) A minister of religion or a religious community
 - b) More than one household
 - c) Resident staff or asylum seekers.

Harborough District Council receives less than 10% of the total council tax. The rest contributes to services provided by the county council, the police and crime commissioner, the fire authority, and parish/town councils.

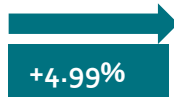
Financial information

Band D property will pay

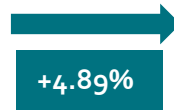
2024

2025

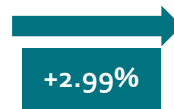
Leicestershire County Council



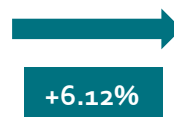
Police and Crime Commissioner



Harborough District Council
(including Special Expenses)

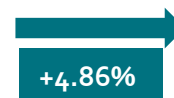


Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service



Total:

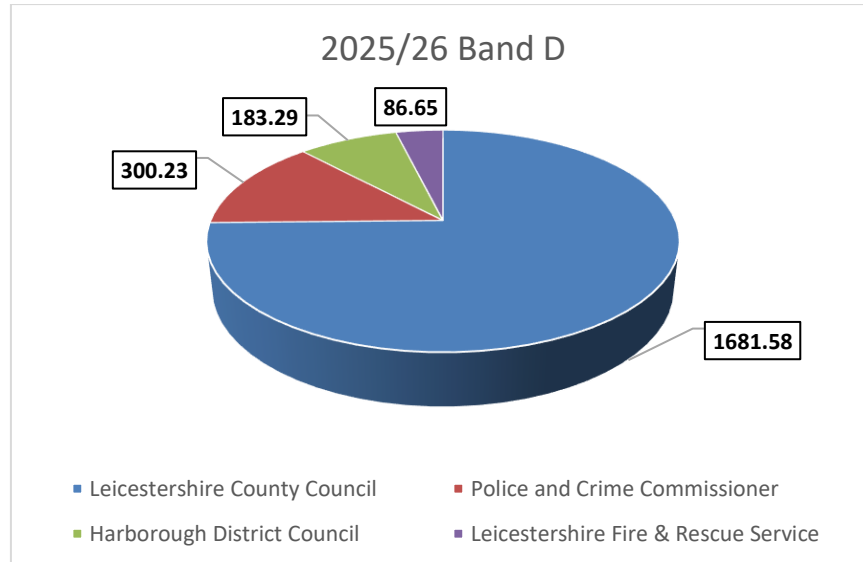
£2,147.43



£2,251.75

Where your money goes

In 2025/26, a Band D property will pay **£2,246.75** in council tax (including special expenses). The four main authorities receive the amounts show below. Visit each authority's website for more details on how this income contributes to public services



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicestershire

Your voice in Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

www.leics.pcc.police.uk/counciltax

**Leicestershire
County Council**

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/counciltax



**DISTRICT OF
HARBOROUGH**

www.harborough.gov.uk/counciltax

**LEICESTERSHIRE
FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE**

www.leicestershire-fire.gov.uk

Council tax valuation bands

The Valuation Office Agency (not local councils) puts every property into one of eight **valuation bands**, labelled **A** to **H**. Further details are available on the Valuation Office Agency website at www.voa.gov.uk.



Band	Range of values at 1 April 1991	Proportion of Band D tax payable
A	Up to and including £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9/9
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9
H	More than £320,000	18/9

Council tax appeals

If you do not agree with the band for your home and wish to make an appeal, please contact the Valuation Office on 03000 501501 or go to the Valuation Office website: www.voa.gov.uk

Other appeals

If you wish to appeal against any other matter regarding your council tax, please do so in writing to the Council Tax Team. You can email the team at counciltax@harborough.gov.uk or write to us at:

F.A.O. Council Tax Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ.

You should continue to pay your original council tax demand notice whilst your appeal is outstanding. In the event of an overpayment, the credit will be offset against any outstanding balance and the remainder refunded to you.

Council Tax Support Scheme

From April 2013, **Council Tax Benefit** was replaced by a local **Council Tax Support Scheme**.

The Government reduced the amount of money local councils received to provide full discounts on Council Tax for working age people.

Everyone under state pension age must pay some council tax.

In 2025/26, working age people (in receipt of maximum Council Tax Support) have to pay 15% of their council tax charge.

It is important that you contact us as soon as you receive your council tax demand notice if you need help and advice on how to pay your charge.

People of pensionable age who were in receipt of council tax benefit are protected from these changes. You will continue to receive the same level of support that you would have done under the council tax benefit rules.

Important note:

If your circumstances change you should report this to the council within a month of the change occurring. Failure to do this will be dealt with as an act of fraud. You can ring us on **01858 828282**, email: benefits@harborough.gov.uk or write to us at: **F.A.O. Benefits Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ.**

How to pay

Paying council tax over 12 months

Council tax instalments can now be spread over 12 months instead of 10. Following your request, the number of payments will be dependent on the number of months remaining in the financial year. Your written request for 12 monthly instalments will automatically apply to the next financial year. If you would prefer to revert back to paying over ten months, please notify us in writing and we will amend our records.

If you would like to pay your council tax over 12 months, please email your request detailing your name, full address and council tax reference number (shown on your notice) to counciltax@harborough.gov.uk or write to us at **F.A.O. Council Tax Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ.** Alternatively, please call Customer Services on **01858 828282**.

Pay your council tax or business rates by Direct Debit

Direct debit is simple, convenient and secure.

You only need to set up a direct debit for council tax or business rates once. There is no need to cancel it at the end of the financial year.

Your payments will be collected automatically from your bank account on the dates shown on your demand notice.



Protected by the direct debit guarantee

After your final 2024/25 instalment has been collected, no further payments will be taken until the 2025/26 financial year starts and the first instalment becomes due in April 2025.

Set up a Direct Debit online by going to www.harborough.gov.uk/council-tax-pay

78% of
council tax
payers
pay by
direct debit

Alternatively, call us on 01858 828282. Please have your bank account details and reference number to hand to allow us to set this up over the telephone.

Are you struggling financially? We are here to help

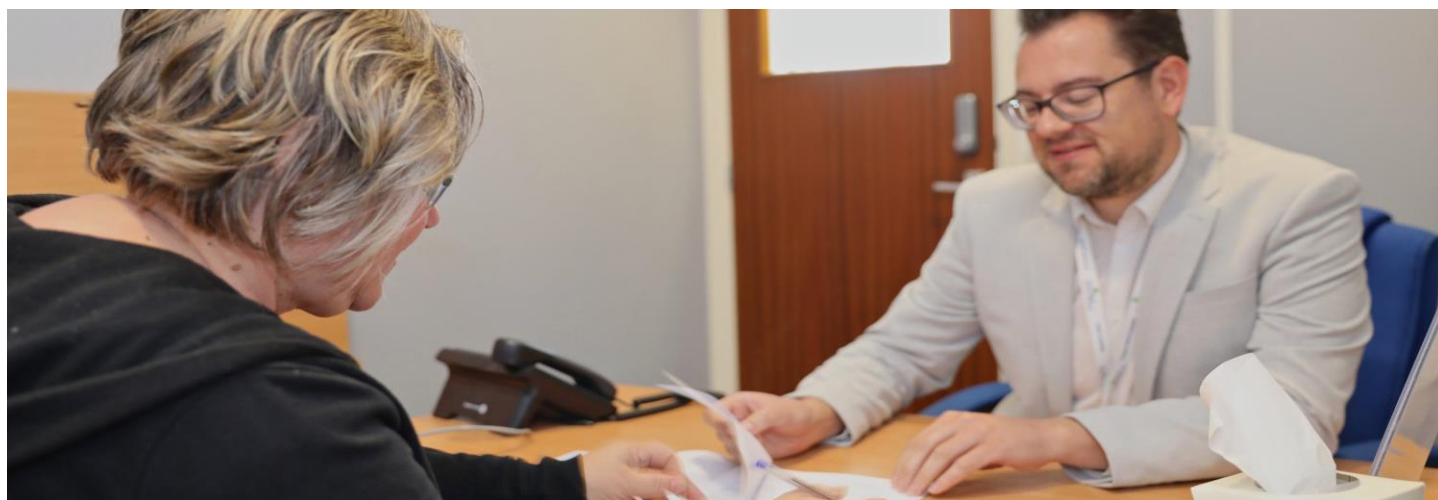
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are having difficulty paying your council tax or business rates instalments.

We can help you by:

- Referring you to a money advisor at Citizens Advice
- Referring you to our Benefits Team
- Agreeing an alternative payment arrangement with you
- Giving you advice about discounts, exemptions and reliefs.

Don't wait until you have lost your right to pay by instalments. We will be able to help if you contact us at an early stage, before any recovery action is taken.

You can call us on **01858 828282** or email counciltax@harborough.gov.uk



Discounts

Council tax assumes there are at least two adults living in the home. If you live on your own, you are entitled to 25% discount.

If the property is a second home, or is a house that is unoccupied but furnished, there is no discount in the charge.

If an adult within the household falls into one of the following categories then a discount may apply:

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices, youth training trainees and foreign language assistants
- 18/19 year olds who are at or have just left school or college
- Patients resident in hospital or being looked after in care homes
- Severely mentally impaired people
- People in hostels or night shelters
- Low paid care workers usually employed by charities
- People caring for a person with a disability who is NOT a partner or child under 18 years old
- Members of religious communities such as monks or nuns
- People in detention (except for non-payment of council tax or a fine)
- Members of visiting forces, certain international and defence organisations.

Temporary absences owing to holiday or work will not normally result in discount entitlement.

Annexe discount – From 1 April 2014 annexes meeting certain criteria are entitled to a 50% discount. To qualify for a discount the annexe must be occupied by a relative of the person who is liable to pay council tax on the main home. If it is unoccupied the annexe must be being used as part of the main home. Please contact us for more details. If you wish to apply, we will send you an application form.

Long term empty properties which are both unoccupied and unfurnished will be liable to a premium

If a property has been empty and unfurnished:

- between one and five years a 100% premium will be added to the charge so you will pay twice the standard charge
- between five and ten years a 200% premium will be added to the charge so you will pay three times the standard charge
- over ten years a 300% premium will be added to the charge, which will mean that you will pay four times the standard charge.

Exceptions to the premium

There are various classes of properties that are exempt from the premium, some for a limited time of up to one year (from when they first became empty) and includes those being actively marketed for sale/ rent or those undergoing major repair. For a complete list of exemptions and further information please visit our website.

Disabled people

A property band reduction in the charge may be applicable if you, or someone who lives with you, is disabled and uses a wheelchair within the property or requires a room to meet their needs or requires an extra bathroom / kitchen. Please contact the Council Tax Team if you wish to apply.

Cyber Crime



If you are worried that you have been scammed, defrauded or have experienced cyber-crime, Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud. You can also find information on their site about free cybercrime protection and prevention advice. www.actionfraud.police.uk

Exemptions

Some properties may be exempt from council tax and the following is a broad description.

Class	Unoccupied properties	Entitlement
B	Owned by a charity	Up to 6 months
D	Left empty by someone who has gone to prison	No charge
E	Previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care	No charge
F	Waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted	Up to 6 months after probate is granted
G	Empty because occupation is forbidden by law	No charge
H	Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion	No charge
I	Left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness	No charge
J	Left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person	No charge
K	Owned by a student and last occupied by a student	No charge
L	Subject to a Repossession Order	No charge
Q	The responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee	No charge
R	A site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring	No charge
T	'Granny annexes' or similar type of property	No charge
Class	Occupied properties	
M/N	All the residents are students	
O	Used for UK armed forces accommodation	
P	At least one liable person is a member of a visiting force	
S	All residents are less than 18 years old	
U	All residents are severely mentally impaired	
V	At least one liable person is a foreign diplomat	
W	It is annexed to a family home and occupied by that family's elderly or disabled relatives	

If you think you may be entitled to a discount or an exemption, please contact the Council Tax Team on **01858 828282**.

If you receive a discount / exemption, then you must tell the Council Tax Team within 21 days of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement. Failure to do so may lead to a penalty charge.

Special expenses and local parish precepts

Special expenses

Special Expenses are services provided by Harborough District Council, which are provided by Parishes and Town Councils elsewhere in the District. These become Special Expenses of the District Council and are only charged to the council tax payers in that area.

Special Expenses are paid to the District Council for; cemetery provision, allotment provision, Harborough in Bloom, Harborough Town Centre Support (including specified events), parks and recreation grounds, memorial gardens, bus shelters and space considered to be the public realm.

The table below shows where the Special Expenses are charged and how those charges are calculated.

Special Expenses - Redistribution by Parish Area							
Area within the District	Basic amount of HDC council tax before special expense redistribution a £	Redistribution of Special Expense			Parish element e £	Basic amount of Council Tax by Parish (1) f £ (a+d+e)	Reconciliation of HDC council tax after special expense amount a-b £
		Total special expense amount in HDC budget to be redistributed b £	Redistributed special expense by parish area c £	Net special expenses adjustment d £ (b+c)			
Blaston	183.29	(18.78)	16.09	(2.69)	0.00	180.60	164.51
Foxton	183.29	(18.78)	11.62	(7.16)	61.80	237.93	164.51
Great Bowden	183.29	(18.78)	11.76	(7.02)	62.81	239.08	164.51
Great Easton	183.29	(18.78)	17.86	(0.92)	37.40	219.77	164.51
Lutterworth	183.29	(18.78)	13.19	(5.59)	130.30	308.00	164.51
Market Harborough	183.29	(18.78)	59.35	40.57	0.00	223.86	164.51
Saddington	183.29	(18.78)	42.09	23.31	24.15	230.75	164.51
Thumby & Bushby	183.29	(18.78)	26.22	7.44	55.45	246.18	164.51
Broughton Astley	183.29	(18.78)	6.19	(12.59)	116.60	287.30	164.51
Fleckney	183.29	(18.78)	0.71	(18.07)	192.56	357.78	164.51
Great Glen	183.29	(18.78)	1.91	(16.87)	134.38	300.80	164.51
Scraptoft	183.29	(18.78)	9.38	(9.40)	115.36	289.25	164.51
NB.							
(1) agrees to Appendix 9: Council Tax Resolution.							
(2) Total Special Expenses 2025/26		743,192					
Council Tax Base, whole district		39,576.4					
Special Expense		18.78					
(3) HDC 2025/26 Band D Council Tax after Special Expense				164.51			
HDC 2024/25 Band D Council Tax after Special Expense				161.37			
Increase (mainly due to increase in the core contract charge)				3.14	1.95%		

In areas where there are parish or town councils, a portion of your council tax is given to them to provide certain services, such as grass cutting and cemeteries. The following information gives you the financial details for the majority of our parish and town councils. Where there is no parish or town council, the District Council may take on some services. These are called Special Expenses - see table above for more information.

Note: Of the 91 Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in Harborough District, 30 of those did not levy a precept.

Local parish precepts

2024/25 Precept £	Parish	2025/26 Precept £	2025/26 Tax Base £	2025/26 Effect on a Band D £
0	Market Harborough	0	9,952.9	0.00
1,225	Allerton	1,230	37.6	32.71
15,950	Arnesby	16,750	176.9	94.69
10,815	Ashby Magna	11,350	169.1	67.12
13,380	Ashby Parva	6,690	120.8	55.38
17,995	Billesdon	20,490	445.5	45.99
30,943	Bitteswell with Bittesby	36,575	244.4	149.65
0	Blaston	0	33.4	0.00
2,125	Brighthurst	2,175	24.3	89.51
392,855	Broughton Astley	400,712	3,436.7	116.60
5,700	Bruntingthorpe	6,700	175.9	38.09
15,380	Burton Overy	16,105	157.7	102.12
0	Carton Curtlieu	0	20.9	0.00
0	Catthorpe	0	88.9	0.00
12,008	Claybrooke Magna	12,368	262.2	47.17
5,554	Claybrooke Parva	5,721	88.1	64.94
0	Cold Newton	0	24.6	0.00
3,911	Cotesbach	4,028	106.5	37.82
0	Cranoe	0	18.0	0.00
3,080	Drayton	3,130	82.8	37.80
16,165	Dunton Bassett	16,973	318.3	53.32
10,225	East Langton	10,759	201.1	53.50
0	East Norton	0	48.1	0.00
192,690	Fleckney	369,000	1,916.3	192.56
11,036	Foxtan	14,881	240.8	61.80
0	Frisby	0	13.8	0.00
5,000	Frolesworth	5,000	136.2	36.71
0	Gaulby	0	78.5	0.00
46,750	Gilmorton	48,890	620.7	78.77
0	Glooston	0	38.2	0.00
500	Goadby	500	48.2	10.37
39,500	Great Bowden	41,400	659.1	62.81
12,849	Great Easton	12,849	343.6	134.38
255,000	Great Glen	262,650	1,954.5	14.43
0	Gumley	1,000	69.3	37.40
30,500	Hallaton	32,000	294.0	108.84
500	Horninghold	500	50.4	9.92
43,647	Houghton on the Hill	45,829	764.1	59.98
16,241	Hungarton	17,875	138.0	129.53
74,500	Husbands Bosworth	77,500	563.1	137.63
6,233	Illston on the Hill	4,637	88.6	52.34
4,720	Keyham	4,950	67.7	73.12
170,577	Kibworth Beauchamp	210,865	1,861.3	113.29
90,212	Kibworth Harcourt	133,037	1,005.4	132.32
16,258	Kimcote and Walton	18,442	293.0	62.94
0	King's Norton	0	33.5	0.00
0	Knaptoft	0	36.6	0.00
0	Laughton	0	46.9	0.00
0	Launde	0	12.8	0.00
15,139	Leire	16,975	281.3	60.34
2,000	Little Stretton	2,000	57.3	34.90
0	Loddington	0	33.2	0.00
0	Lowesby	0	38.9	0.00
21,860	Lubenham	22,200	464.2	47.82
465,686	Lutterworth	503,439	3,863.7	130.30
0	Marefield	0	10.7	0.00
16,228	Medbourne	16,618	245.6	67.66
28,879	Misterton with Walcote	29,700	201.7	147.25
8,000	Mowsley	8,000	131.0	61.07
1,230	Nevill Holt	1,050	26.2	40.08
24,234	North Kilworth	26,489	388.4	68.20
0	Noseley	0	13.8	0.00
0	Owston and Newbold	0	62.1	0.00
3,048	Peatling Magna	3,198	107.1	29.86
0	Peatling Parva	0	93.1	0.00
0	Rolleston	0	36.3	0.00
2,550	Saddington	2,550	105.6	24.15
119,528	Scraptoft	128,170	1,111.0	115.36
0	Shangton	0	75.6	0.00
2,440	Shawell	2,440	93.5	26.10
16,909	Shearsby	18,262	114.6	159.35
4,800	Skeffington	4,800	114.5	41.92
0	Slawston	0	76.1	0.00
9,080	Smeeton Westerby	9,900	172.3	57.46
19,602	South Kilworth	21,075	248.6	84.77
0	Stockerston	0	20.2	0.00
0	Stonton Wyville	0	16.1	0.00
11,311	Stoughton	12,121	169.8	71.38
22,545	Swinford	23,985	303.9	78.92
4,170	Theddingworth	4,170	104.2	40.02
0	Thorpe Langton	0	112.9	0.00
89,490	Thurnby and Bushby	91,048	1,642.0	55.45
17,000	Tilton	18,700	286.2	65.34
13,990	Tugby and Keythorpe	15,400	187.5	82.13
10,880	Tur Langton	11,079	112.0	98.92
16,900	Ullesthorpe	22,945	484.2	47.39
0	Welham	0	20.6	0.00
0	West Langton	0	54.1	0.00
0	Westrill and Starmore	0	1.7	0.00
10,350	Willoughby Waterleys	10,858	150.6	72.10
0	Wistow	0	122.7	0.00
0	Withcote	0	12.0	0.00
2,531,873		2,900,733	29,623.5	

Flood defence

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2369km), Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2292km) and Severn and Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2486km).

Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion.

Leicestershire County Council pays flood defence levies to Trent, Anglian Northern and Severn & Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC) of the Environment Agency

County Council Flood Defence Levy	2024/2025 £000	2025/2026 £000
Anglian Northern	52	54
Severn & Wye	7	8
Trent	269	273
Total	328	335

Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

The financial details are:

	Trent		Anglian Northern		Severn and Wye	
	2024/2025 £000	2025/2026 £000	2024/2025 £000	2025/2026 £000	2024/2025 £000	2025/2026 £000
Gross expenditure	£67,518	£99,241	£75,133	£98,367	£34,573	£32,588
Levies raised from councils	£2,313	£2,360	£1,829	£1,884	£1,270	£1,296
Total council tax base	1,930	1,959	629	639	1029	1049

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute.

Levies Raised	Trent	Anglian Northern	Severn and Wye
2024/2025	£2,313,472	£1,828,672	£1,270,332
Increased %	2.0%	3.0%	2.0%
2025/2026	£2,359,742	£1,883,533	£1,295,738

Sign up for the latest news at:

www.harborough.gov.uk/harborough-news

Contact us



www.harborough.gov.uk



customer.services@harborough.gov.uk



[@harboroughdc](https://twitter.com/harboroughdc)



Call us on 01858 828282



Harborough District Council
The Symington Building
Adam & Eve Street
Market Harborough
Leicestershire LE16 7AG