



Blaby District Plan 2024-2028



Introduction

We are delighted to introduce the Council's Blaby District Plan for the period 2024 to 2028. This document serves as our roadmap for continually improving Blaby District and to continue to ensure it is a great place to live, work and visit.

This Plan is not just for the Council; it is for everyone in Blaby District. It is an inclusive journey that involves our residents, businesses, voluntary sector, communities, and partner organisations. Together, we will embark on a path towards an even brighter future.

In recent years, our community has faced numerous challenges, most notably dealing with the complexities of the Covid-19 pandemic and more recently the cost-of-living crisis. The Council, like every other organisation has had to adapt and evolve, finding new ways of working while safeguarding and supporting our residents and businesses. As we move forward, recognising the significant financial challenges ahead, we are committed to building a Council that is not only in tune with the rapidly changing times we live in but also possesses the creative adaptability necessary to overcome these challenges. We firmly believe that our future holds immense promise.

Our Plan considers the entire district and its diverse population. We want to bring about meaningful change that improves the lives of real people in practical ways. Whether it is addressing climate change, improving digital accessibility to our services, promoting health and wellbeing, fostering economic development, or

nurturing both our rural and urban treasures, we will tackle these challenges simultaneously, making Blaby District a thriving and harmonious community.

In the coming years, Blaby District is set to undergo significant change. Our population will grow, commuting patterns will shift, and businesses will evolve. To ensure that these changes are positive and that our communities continue to flourish, proactive and effective planning is crucial. We acknowledge that due to the financial challenges ahead we will need to make some difficult decisions, but each decision we make will be aligned with the vision outlined in this Plan.

This Plan lays the foundation for us to shape a prosperous and sustainable future, preserving the character of Blaby District and maximising opportunities for everyone. Together, we will create a better tomorrow for Blaby District, building on the shared vision and commitment of our community.



Terry Richardson,
Leader of the Council



Julia Smith,
Chief Executive

About the District

75% residents satisfied or very satisfied with Blaby District as a place to live

63% residents and customers were satisfied or very satisfied with the way Council runs its services

77% of residents feel the Council keeps them well informed

Blaby District is located in South Leicestershire and is represented by **36 councillors**



Population of **103,217**



50 square miles



44,108 homes



Average house price **£299,131**



4,070 businesses



Average salary **£33,438**



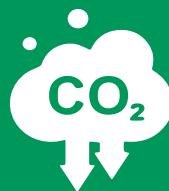
25% of population age 65 and over



90% of working-age residents in employment



In top **20%** of local authority areas for health



On track to achieve **90%** reduction in the Council's carbon emission since 2018/19



7,033 crimes reported in a year April 22-March 23

References for the stats on this page can be found on page 14

Our achievements from Blaby District Plan 2021-2024

A place to live

Expanding Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

The installation of 24 electric vehicle charging points across the district is a significant step in the right direction, but there is more work ahead if our residents are to embrace sustainable transport options.

Empowering Communities Through Energy Savings

Our support for the Big Community Switch energy auction has brought substantial benefits to our residents. A total of 587 households saved an incredible £97,277 while collectively reducing carbon emissions by 444 tonnes through competitive energy tariffs.

Supporting our Communities Through Generous Grants

Our Community Grants Scheme has awarded over £200,000 to an impressive 164 different organisations, demonstrating our commitment to bolstering the vitality and wellbeing of our local communities.

Keeping you safe and healthy

Lightbulb brings together a range of support such as aids and adaptations, energy advice, home safety, and home improvements, and supports with the transition from hospital to home. The pioneering partnership has supported more than 13,105 people since October 2017 and saved the economy an estimated £360,000.

Delivery of Affordable Housing

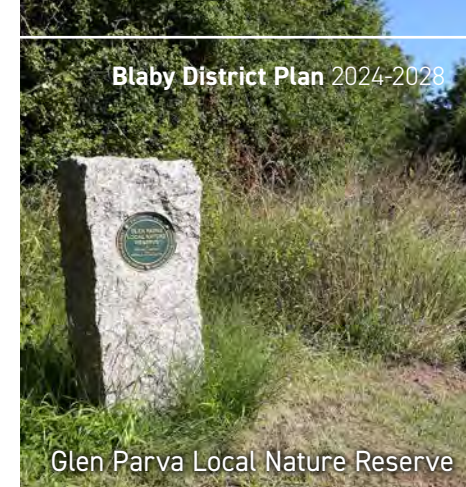
Since 2021, we have delivered 129 affordable homes representing 20% of the overall housing supply. In addition, 174 affordable homes are currently under construction and are due to be completed this financial year. Planning permission has also been given for a further 154 affordable homes across the district.

Resolving the Threat of Homelessness

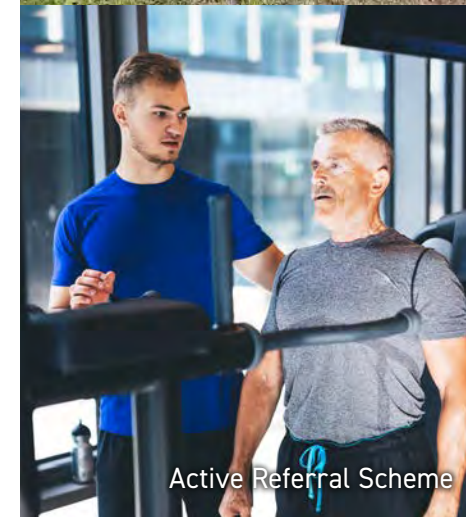
Our commitment to tackling homelessness has yielded substantial results. Over the course of the previous plan period we have successfully saved 307 households from homelessness.

Huncote Leisure Centre

After the temporary closure of Huncote Leisure Centre in November 2021 due to the discovery of elevated landfill gas levels on the former landfill site, the Council invested in a significant amount of monitoring and remediation work. This initiative reduced gas levels, ensuring the safe reopening of the facility to the public.



Glen Parva Local Nature Reserve



Active Referral Scheme



New Lubbesthorpe

Our achievements from Blaby District Plan 2021-2024

A place to work

Secured Substantial Funding for Community Enhancements

The Council secured £4 million in funding that has contributed towards improvement in health and leisure programmes, air quality and toilet facilities. The Council also secured £96,000 in Welcome Back Funding to boost the look and feel of local areas and over £2 million as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Funding. These funds will support various projects over a span of three years, promoting prosperity and growth.

Boosting Local Business Resilience

In a significant show of support, we have distributed £6.5 million in Business Grants to local businesses. These grants have been a lifeline for our business community, aiding them in maintaining operations and securing their financial stability.

Collaboration with HMP Fosse Way

The Council played a key role in promoting collaboration within the local business community, spearheading various initiatives in support of the new prison. These efforts included the sourcing of local suppliers to provide goods and services to the prison, the establishment of apprenticeship programmes, and the creation of opportunities for work placements benefiting individuals under Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) status.

A place to visit

New Walking and Cycling Route

The new Active Travel route from Lubbesthorpe through Meridian Leisure Park to the City provides 2.5 miles of cycling or walking following an investment of £1 million, reducing the need for car usage.

Paving the Way for Cleaner Air

Three pollution hotspots in the district, including Narborough Road South, B4114 in Enderby, and Narborough and Enderby Road in Whetstone, are to be removed from the Air Quality Management Areas due to consistently improved air quality.

Tourism Trails

A tourism map has been developed and a series of 12 individual heritage trails around the district launched.

Latest figures show the economic value of local tourism has increased by £40 million in the past year and is now contributing £190 million to the local economy.



Active Travel route



Tourism Trails

Challenges facing the district

- 1 Climate Change** The effects of climate change are one of the biggest challenges facing the district. Our ambition is for the Council to reduce carbon emissions and achieve net zero by 2030, with the district following suit by 2050.
- 2 Service Delivery** The challenges in delivering services in light of budget constraints are a central concern. Due to reductions in public funding, resources are expected to remain limited throughout the implementation of this plan. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy provides a framework for the Council's budget, relying on government settlements for resource allocation while ensuring that funding aligns with key themes. Future funding is uncertain, and it is likely that there will continue to be funding reductions and increased demands on the Council. As a result, the Council foresees a budget deficit of £4.9 million by the financial year 2027/28.
- 3 Housing Growth, Affordable Housing and Homelessness** Blaby District faces a significant housing delivery challenge with an emerging housing requirement of around 687 homes per year up until 2036. There is an increasing need for affordable housing, and there is concern that the required numbers are unachievable.

The impact of the pandemic, coupled with rising living costs, along with an increasingly unaffordable and small private rented sector, has led to a surge in homelessness in the district. This situation is exacerbated by the lack of affordable housing.
- 4 Health** While many residents are in good health, it is essential to address the fact that 66% of adults in the district are overweight. This highlights the need for more proactive measures. We actively work with partners such as Active Together, Public Health and the NHS to respond to this challenge.

Contaminated land also poses a significant challenge as it has the potential to incur substantial costs to ensure our communities' safety. In light of recent events at Huncote Leisure Centre and the need to mitigate against rising methane levels, all contaminated land sites will be reviewed to ensure that the appropriate measures are still in place to protect and safeguard our communities.



Narborough Station



New Lubbethorpe Fosse Fox

Our Vision

Our vision is to ensure that Blaby District is
A great place to live, work and visit

Our Organisational Values

Our organisational values define our culture, embody our beliefs and principles and provide guidance for our interactions with customers, colleagues and communities.

- 1 Put the customer at the heart of everything we do
- 2 Be innovative, adaptable and resourceful
- 3 Understand the needs of our communities and treat everyone fairly
- 4 Be open, honest and clearly communicate

Our Strategic Themes

Enabling our communities and supporting our vulnerable residents

What we want to achieve

- 1 We are dedicated to fostering communities where no one is left behind, especially our vulnerable residents. We aim to empower individuals to take control of their own futures and those of their families. This commitment extends to key areas such as young people, mental health, benefits, the provision of suitable housing, and supporting asylum dispersal and community integration.
- 2 Our initiatives go beyond traditional boundaries. Our Lightbulb Service encourages independent living, while our Housing Enabler Team accelerates hospital discharges, ensuring a speedy return home. Our Home Gadgets Service leverages assistive technology to support residents in managing health conditions, including dementia. While our initial goal was to eliminate homelessness, we acknowledge that it remains a challenge. We are committed to maintaining a zero rough sleeping rate. We recognise the need for specialised housing to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community, and pledge to work closely with partners to make this a reality.
- 3 Our communities are diverse and so are their needs and preferences. We will do all that we can to meet these needs. We will embrace the positive power of technology to combat exclusion from services and communities, ensuring everyone has equal access to the information and help they need, regardless of their individual circumstances.



How we will achieve this

- Work in partnership to provide support for our homeless and most vulnerable residents
- Continually review services to ensure they are streamlined, fit for purpose and easy for the customer to understand and access
- Recognise the diversity of our customers' needs in the design of our services
- Provide our customers with the information or support they need at the first point of contact, through our website or other access channels
- Work with councillors, community groups and partner organisations to encourage and promote digital inclusion across Blaby District
- Utilise our Commercial Strategy to invest in ensuring appropriate accommodation is accessible to the most vulnerable
- By delivering the actions in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- Strengthen partnerships to integrate comprehensive preventative offers into the Lightbulb service



Ice House

Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environments

What we want to achieve

- 1 We continue to address the challenges posed by climate change, supporting the Council's carbon emissions to be net zero by 2030 and supporting the district to become net zero by 2050.
- 2 In addition, our dedication extends to enhancing biodiversity in our parks and open spaces. We are actively working to implement biodiversity strategies that promote the growth and preservation of diverse ecosystems.
- 3 We are equally committed to ensuring sustainable development in the district, maintaining a clean and green environment. Our own parks will be sustainable, ensuring high quality and accessibility, while continuing to provide value to the local community and the natural world.
- 4 Our plan also includes efforts to reduce waste and increase recycling, aligning with the latest national waste packaging reforms. We are determined to deliver the actions outlined in the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy.

How we will achieve this

- Deliver on our actions in the Climate Change Strategy
- Adopt a Local Plan to ensure environmentally friendly housing and promote biodiversity in new developments
- Increase biodiversity and improve access to green open spaces
- Reduce our impact on the environment by delivering sustainable development, working with our partners to reach a district-wide net-zero goal by 2050
- Expand electric vehicle infrastructure across the district to meet the demand for electric vehicles and the needs of the community
- Promote energy efficiency, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources, and behaviour change
- Implement actions outlined in the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy
- Deliver the actions set out in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy



Growing and supporting our economy

What we want to achieve

- 1 Our primary objective is to facilitate business growth and development, foster innovation, and promote overall prosperity within our district through economic recovery and growth.
- 2 Our focus extends to improving and broadening the skills of the district's workforce, thereby creating more opportunities for success. We are equally dedicated to attracting and retaining businesses in our district, cultivating a sense of pride in our district and pinpointing attractive investment prospects. Furthermore, we seek to highlight the unique attributes of our location and what it offers to businesses.
- 3 In addition to these priorities, our goal is for the district to be one of Leicestershire's leading and most welcoming and sustainable tourism destinations, attracting staying and day visitors from across the UK.

How we will achieve this

- Implement the actions set out in the Economic Development Framework
- Deliver the actions set out in the Tourism Growth Plan
- By providing a strong leisure and visitor economy with well-maintained and accessible attractions to encourage visitors to the district



Fosse Park Food Court



Kirby Muxloe Castle

Keeping you safe and healthy

What we want to achieve

- 1 We take pride in providing the necessary infrastructure and services to empower individuals to feel safe and live happy lives. As a district, we are one of the healthiest places to live, and our goal is to ensure that residents can enjoy longer, healthier lives, both physically and mentally.
- 2 We want to foster active and healthier lifestyles among our residents, inspiring people to embrace lifestyles that promote physical and mental wellbeing.
- 3 We are dedicated to creating communities where every individual feels secure, and where issues such as antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse are actively addressed. Our goal is that no one in our community feels isolated or vulnerable, and that support is readily available when needed. Mental health is a growing concern as cases increase, particularly within the younger generation, and more needs to be done to increase awareness and access to support.
- 4 Furthermore, we are determined to continue our investments in leisure centres and suitable leisure provision, promoting accessible opportunities for recreation and wellness.
- 5 The district has several former landfill sites, and these will be reviewed to ensure that the appropriate measures are still in place to protect and safeguard our communities.

How we will achieve this

- Delivery of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Deliver the Playing Pitch Strategy
- Increasing the number of people undertaking physical activity
- Delivery of our Leisure Centre contract
- Deliver the actions of the Active Travel Strategy
- The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Working with partners to ensure effective delivery of the Community Safety Partnership work plans and objectives
- By implementing the actions in the Contaminated Land Strategy
- Raising awareness of mental health services available and provision of mental health services in rural communities



Blaby District Council employee

Ambitious and well-managed Council, valuing our people

What we want to achieve

- 1 We are fully committed to maintaining strong financial management, allocating resources wisely for what matters most. Our focus is on delivering high-quality public services that you can trust and rely on.
- 2 In pursuit of these goals, we will review our strategic assets to ensure they are delivering optimum value to the Council and wider community, increasing social capital.
- 3 We will continue to work in partnership with other local authorities and organisations, prioritising alignment with our business objectives and, most importantly, when such collaborations result in tangible benefits for our communities.
- 4 We aim for efficiency, tailoring services to meet customers' needs, and making them easily accessible. We will implement user-friendly digital processes, designed so customers choose to self-serve, allowing us more time to focus on those that need more support through our assisted access channels.
- 5 We are also dedicated to developing our workforce, helping them to reach their full potential and investing in our people development programmes. We will ensure fundamental management standards are embedded across the organisation, laying the foundation for success and growth.
- 6 Furthermore, we are dedicated to promoting openness and transparency in our actions and decisions. We aim to create an environment where everyone can participate equally, actively seeking feedback and being accountable for our actions. This commitment will strengthen our governance and enhance transparency. We also promise to increase our public visibility and actively promote our work.

How we will achieve this

- Ensuring our ICT service meets the needs of the business
- By delivering the Transforming Blaby Together Strategy and associated action plans
- Delivery of the Corporate Communications Strategy
- By delivering actions required to sustain the Council's longer-term financial position as identified in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy

References

- Population (ONS estimate June 2021)
- Average house price (HM Land Registry House Price Index August 2023)
- Average salary (ONS Earnings and hours worked, place of residence by local authority 2022)
- Reported criminal offences (ONS Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership area April 2022-March 2023)
- Working-age residents in employment (ONS Subnational indicators explorer April 2022-March 2023)
- Population 65 and over (ONS estimate June 2021)
- Healthiest area (ONS Health Index 2021)
- Overweight adults (ONS Subnational indicators explorer November 2021-November 2022)



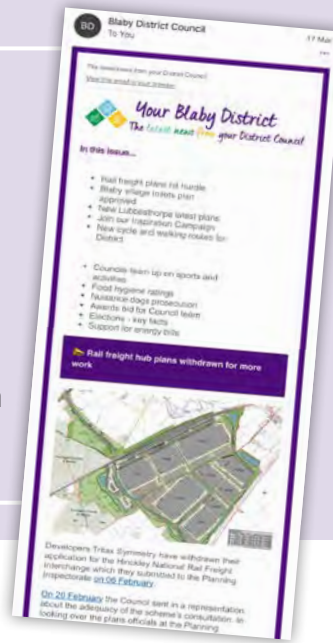
The Tithe Barn

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Subscribe to receive our e-Newsletters and keep updated on the services that matter to you, with emails direct to your inbox.

www.blaby.gov.uk/sign-up

Our general e-Newsletter is sent out twice a month.



Fosse Park Food Central



Blaby District Plan 2024-2028

Blaby Golf Centre

Follow us on social media for daily updates and news from across the district.



You can find us on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn.



Blaby Village



Helping vulnerable residents

The Council has committees which make decisions about services, or which have delegated powers to make decisions based on law. Most committees are public meetings, so members of the public are welcome to attend. At certain meetings, like full Council Meetings, members of the public can ask questions by prior arrangement. Agendas, minutes and meeting dates are published on our website and members of the public can watch live meetings online.

More information can be found at www.blaby.gov.uk/committees



Job Fair



A Place to Grow



Home care



Stoney Cove



Refuse collection fleet

Translation

If you need this Blaby District Plan in other formats or languages contact us on **0116 275 0555** or email customer.services@blaby.gov.uk.

Jeśli potrzebujesz tego planu dystryktu Blaby w innych formatach lub językach, skontaktuj się z nami pod numerem 0116 275 0555 lub wyślij e-mail customer.services@blaby.gov.uk.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਟ ਪਲਾਨ ਦੀ ਹੋਰ ਫਾਰਮੈਟਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ 0116 275 0555 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ customer.services@blaby.gov.uk 'ਤੇ ਈਮੇਲ ਕਰੋ।

જો તમારે અન્ય ફોર્મેટ્સ અથવા ભાષાઓમાં આ બ્લેબી ડિસ્ટ્રિક્ટ પ્લાનની જરૂર હોય તો 0116 275 0555 પર અમારો સંપર્ક કરો અથવા customer.services@blaby.gov.uk ઇમેઇલ કરો.

The document is also available on our website: www.blaby.gov.uk



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