



## Blaby District Council Efficiency Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20

Blaby District Council Efficiency Plan for the four years 2016/17 to 2019/20 is detailed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The MTFS sits within the 'Blaby Plan'; a document which brings together the Council's Community Plan, the Corporate Plan, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the People Strategy.

Blaby District is made up of thriving and vibrant communities where people are happy to live, work and visit.

For any organisation to be really effective, whether in the public or private sector, it must have focus and direction. It needs to be clear on its purpose, concentrate on what matters, and plan to achieve these.

The Blaby Plan sets out our ambitions and how we will deliver our priorities, with partners, to our community. It is the outcome of a year of listening to customers, staff and stakeholders, collecting and analysing information and working together.

We believe that our purpose is to improve the well being and quality of life of local people. We are ambitious for our area and want to deliver the very best outcomes. However, we have to set this against a background of ongoing challenges in funding and resources.

The Blaby Plan is not just a list of things that we want to achieve for the district. It sets out our priorities, our resources and how we support staff to deliver in ever changing times. We will be working alongside partners to deliver clear outcomes and make a real difference.

### **Our Overarching Principles - How we do things:**

- Focus on and adapt to what matters to our customers.
- Work in partnership, using resources wisely to meet the needs of our customers.
- Help people to help themselves.
- Be open to new and innovative ways of working.

### **Our Priorities for the district:**

- **Economy & Skills** - A vibrant local economy and job market.
- **Health & Well-being** - Residents are healthy, fulfilled and confident for their future.
- **Homes & Communities** - Safe, strong and happy local communities

The Blaby Plan details our priorities for the years 2015 to 2018 but the MTFS itself extends to 2019/20, recognising that the Council needs to understand and plan for its financial sustainability farther into the future. The financial modelling, identifying future funding gaps, is updated regularly when new information becomes available. The certainty of the four year settlement greatly assists the Council to take a structured approach to making savings, increasing income streams and utilising reserves to ensure that the Council is financially sustainable and services continue to be delivered to our residents without disruption.

Sitting behind the MTFS is the 'Closing the Gap' programme. This is led by members of the Senior Leadership Team with all employees and Members playing a role. It is through this programme that

efficiency initiatives are put forward; income generation ideas are investigated and discussions commence with Members at an early stage for decisions to be taken in advance of financial gaps emerging.

The 'Closing the Gap' programme has already identified how the gap in 2017/18 might be filled. The Council supports this programme with the General Reserve Fund, a reserve set up to provide a safety net should the gap not be filled, but more importantly to provide a 'spend to save fund, allowing investment in initiatives that have long term efficiency outcomes.

We recognise that there are still substantial gaps in the years following 17/18 but are determined that we will continue to meet the challenge by:

- taking a structured approach to continual review of the services we provide using systems thinking and encourage users to self serve where possible
- looking for ways to generate more income
- work with other authorities and partners to deliver services more effectively E.g. Light bulb project across Leicestershire
- Encouraging Economic Growth in the area, investing in relationships with local businesses to improve skills, encourage social responsibility and for business to thrive

Partnership working is of particular importance at Blaby and takes place in all aspects of our services and our ambitions.

Some current examples include:

- The Lightbulb project which, as part of the Government's Transformation Challenge Award, Blaby secured £1m of funding to lead a county wide project to transform practical housing support services across the 8 Leicestershire Councils to help people live safely and independently at home. This project has proved successful and is now in the process of full roll-out next year generating 'more for less' as well as significant savings for health and better outcomes for residents.
- We secured funding from health to run a Leicestershire and Leicester wide pilot project for the NHS at the Bradgate Mental Health Unit in Glenfield Hospital. We have reduced patient time in hospital and NHS costs by dealing with their welfare and housing problems. This pilot has now been extended and also covers the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

We trust that this detail and the documents to which there are links below provide you with sufficient detail.

MTFS Financial Summary, revised February 2016 and contained within Report to Cabinet Executive 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 General Fund Budget Proposals 2016/17 Appendix C.

<http://w3.blaby.gov.uk/decision-making/documents/s28701/General%20Fund%20Budget%20Proposals%20Appendix%20C.pdf>

The Blaby Plan, with links to the full MTFS and People Strategy  
[Blaby Plan 2015-2018](#)

The Council notes from subsequent communications from the Department for Communities and Local Government that the provisional settlement provided in December 2015 are 'minimum' allocations. It is on this basis and the understanding that any new burdens and extra responsibilities will be fully funded, that the Council wishes to accept the four-year funding.

We would like to take the opportunity to urge the Government to review and implement changes to the needs and redistribution methodology within the four year period. Leicestershire is the lowest funded county in England. The considerable cuts that the County Council are now having to make, inevitably has an impact on our residents and is driving additional demand for our own district services.