

Appendix A: Council Achievements List 2018-19 (Quarter 4, January - March 2019)

Corporate Priorities

- One – Our Community
- Two – Our Environment
- Three – Our Housing
- Four – Our Economy
- Five – Our Council

(Press releases: U: Used by local media, N: Not used by local media, x: not yet published.)

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
January 2019		
A local ceremony to mark the national Holocaust Memorial Day took place on The Campus in Welwyn Garden City following an event involving local schools held in the Hawthorne Theatre in partnership with the local Inter-Faith Group. This year's theme was 'Torn from Home' which encouraged people to reflect on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call 'home' is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide. The Mayor of the Council and the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire were both in attendance.	Press Release (U)	One
A new home for local charity Potential Kids was found at Breaks Manor in Hatfield after they were required to leave Beaconsfield Court in Hatfield following the council's acquisition of it for future use as a business incubation centre.	Press Release	One

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>The council's programme to replace mature Lombardy poplar trees in the borough moved on to Stanborough Park's north car park, where approximately 300 trees were felled ahead of their replacement with more suitable species over the coming autumn and winter planting period. To retain a natural barrier for cars a section of the trunk has been left until new trees are planted. Examination of the felled trees subsequently revealed evidence of significant disease and decay in many of them.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>The council made a further call for landowners to submit sites for consideration in the Local Plan. The Plan submitted for public examination allocates land for just over 12,000 homes, although independent assessments conclude that around 16,000 new homes are needed in the borough to 2033. All submitted sites will be published for public comment before each site is assessed for possible inclusion in the plan for further consideration by the Plan Inspector.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>February 2019</p>		
<p>The newly refurbished Coronation Fountain in Parkway, WGC was unveiled on 15 February. The iconic fountain underwent a £22k revamp ahead of the Garden City's 2020 centenary celebrations with work including the cleaning and polishing of the symbolic bronze crown, cleaning of the pool inside and edging, and the replacement of fittings and filters to improve water flow. The lighting was also upgraded with brand new colour options now available to use.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>A touch of high fashion came to Mill Green Museum as the new Cresta Couture exhibition opened to the public. It has been created in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire's fashion business students who are displaying their reproduction work alongside original garments and fabrics held in the museum collection. Cresta Silks operated in Welwyn Garden City from 1929 to the late 1970s. The exhibition runs to July this year.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>Renovations to the play area in Haldens Park got underway following extensive public consultation on the plans. Work included relocating the enclosed play area to the other side of the footpath allowing for more equipment aimed at the toddler and junior age groups. Equipment has also been introduced for slightly older children and teenagers. Work was completed in time for the Easter holidays.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>Homes England has awarded £10.6m in funding to the council to prepare three sites to build 670 new homes in the borough. It is the first to be agreed through the government's £450m Accelerated Construction Programme which encourages the use of innovative construction methods and a wider range of builders from small and medium sized companies. Two town centre sites in Hatfield and one in Welwyn Garden City have been identified for this funding.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>The first brick was laid on a site that will become seven new council homes in Little Mead, Hatfield as part of the council's Affordable Housing Programme. Two former council-owned garage blocks with flats above have been demolished to build four 3-bedroom and three 2-bedroom houses. Construction is due to be completed this autumn with these new homes available to residents on the council's housing needs register.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>Planned regeneration work to transform Hatfield's White Lion Square began towards the end of February. This will include the installation of new paving, seating, raised planters, children's play equipment and cycle parking. The iconic Pearl statue will return to the square in June and local school children will bury a time capsule there. This £1.2m project is funded through a Local Growth Fund contribution from the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>Local businesses gathered on 13 February to celebrate the 30th birthday of the Weltech Business Centre. Now home to 49 different organisations employing around 170 staff, the centre first opened in February 1989 to provide small local companies and entrepreneurs with a flexible and resourced office space to start and grow their business. An anniversary plaque was unveiled by the Mayor and Leader of the Council.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p>The council's main website was relaunched with all relevant content updated and transferred from its predecessor, along with the new One Welwyn Hatfield website which contains council news and other features on local projects and initiatives.</p>	<p>Business Plan</p>	<p>Five</p>
<p>March 2019</p>		
<p>A full planning application for a new adventure and splash play area in the north side of Stanborough Park, Welwyn Garden City was submitted following a public engagement event held over two days to give people the opportunity to comment and help refine the final design. Refurbishment work to the existing WC block also commenced in March to open in June.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>The council coordinated the borough's first Public Health and Wellbeing summit at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield, which saw local stakeholders come together to share knowledge, information and best practice regarding health inequalities and priorities, as part of the review of the council's public health strategy. They included Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue, East and North Herts Hospital Trust, East and North Herts CCG, Age UK Herts and many community groups.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>The council received additional funding of £21k in March from the government's High Street Community Clean-Up Fund to support community-led projects to improve the appearance of local high streets and town centres. This funding was used to support a deep cleaning of both Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield town centres and shopping parades around the borough; cleaning graffiti from subways in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield town centres; and providing extra litter picking equipment for community litter picks in the borough.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>A letting agent that owns and manages two properties in Hatfield was ordered to pay over £50,000 in fines and costs after pleading guilty to 18 offences relating to two houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) following a successful case brought by the council.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>Eight small local businesses received a cash boost of up to £1,000 thanks to the council's Small Grants Scheme. The work of these businesses included supporting local children to become more active, a digital marketing consultancy, a fashion designer and an accounting and VAT specialist. Successful applicants received their grants at an event held in the council chamber on 27 March.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p>The Local Government Association Peer Challenge Review team published its report on the council following a four day site visit in January this year. It noted that the council is a "partner of choice", "in a strong financial position", with "ambitious plans" for the future and has "a committed workforce". An Action Plan will follow on from this.</p>	<p>Press Release</p>	<p>Five</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>The late Leader of the Council, Mandy Perkins, received national recognition for her work in planning. <i>The Planner</i> magazine publishes a list of Women of Influence nominated by its readers and Mandy made the final list of 50 which celebrates the impact of women on planning and planners. Mandy chaired the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) for many years, pushing efforts to debate and agree cross-border issues. She was instrumental in establishing a Hertfordshire Growth Board comprising leaders and chief executives to debate long-term planning and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Five</p>

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