

**Council Achievements List 2019-20 (Quarter 3, October - December 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
<b>October 2019</b>		
Over 200 young people, parents, carers and teaching professionals attended the borough's first <i>Positive Youthful Minds</i> conference in October. Organised by the council and held at the Bishop's Hatfield Girls School, over 30 local mental health and wellbeing service providers delivered interactive workshops and talks on managing stress, anxiety and worry, supporting boys with their mental health, and suicide prevention.	Press Release (U)	One
A ground-breaking event marked the start of construction on the new adventure and splash play area in Stanborough Park, Welwyn Garden City. The purpose-built leisure facility will include a large 600m <sup>2</sup> splash park with a paddling stream through the centre. This will be surrounded by a nautical themed adventure play area, including a large explorer ship and a variety of play equipment for children of all ages. There will also be an outdoor gym and sports pitch, providing teenagers and adults with a range of new health and fitness activity options. It will be free to use and is scheduled to open in Summer 2020 during the garden city's centenary year.	Press Release (U)	One

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>A range of Halloween themed activities again took place around the borough with the council organising child-friendly events in Hatfield town centre, Mill Green Museum and the Jim McDonald Centre.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>Visitors from across the housing sector were welcomed to Welwyn Hatfield as part of a Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) programme to celebrate 100 years of council house building. An event at Campus West focused on how councils and housing associations can work more closely together to deliver affordable housing in their local communities, and was attended by the CIH's Chief Executive. This was followed by a tour of local housing.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>The council agreed to the formation of a new local housing company to help build many more affordable homes to the borough. It is hoped that Now Housing Limited will deliver up to 370 new homes over the next five years with an initial focus on providing one and two bedroom properties.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>More than 800 students are better equipped for life after education after finding out about career opportunities available in Hertfordshire. Organised by the council in partnership with the Careers and Enterprise Company and Roche Products Ltd, more than thirty local and national businesses exhibited. Year 11 students from Monks Walk, Bishop's Hatfield, Chancellors, Onslow St Audrey's, Stanborough, Ridgeway, Lakeside and Knightsfield attended, as did the local MP and the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p>The council announced its intention to protect important employment space in Welwyn Hatfield by issuing an Article 4 Direction. It will come into force in October 2020, subject to a consultation process, to cover strategically important office sites in the borough. It will help to remove permitted development rights that currently allow office buildings to be converted for residential use without planning permission.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<b>November 2019</b>		
<p>Remembrance Sunday was commemorated by special services held in Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City and Welwyn village. Senior councillors and officers accompanied local residents and other dignitaries at these well-regarded and supported commemorative events.</p>	Press Release (U)	One
<p>People were invited to step back in time at Mill Green's annual Victorian Christmas Fair. There were Victorian street sellers, commercial stalls, a variety of free children's activities around the site, carols in the mill, mulled wine and seasonal food and a chance to visit Mrs Christmas for younger guests. A total of 500 people visited this afternoon event on the last Sunday in the month.</p>	Press Release (U)	One
<p>The council's development partner, Bourne Parking, submitted a planning application for a new multi-storey car park to unlock key town centre space in Hatfield for redevelopment. It will provide 420 spaces over four floors including 18 disabled spaces, 10 parent / child spaces, and 8 electric vehicle charging bays. It will be funded through a £4.8m Local Growth Fund contribution from the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with the council funding the remaining £1.2m of the £6m budget.</p>	Press Release (U)	Four
<p>Work on the council's new HatTech business centre began. This new business incubation centre on Beaconsfield Road, only two minutes from Hatfield train station and close to the town centre, will provide 2,800 square metres of employment space and create over 150 jobs locally when it's ready to open in the early months of 2020.</p>	Press Release (U)	Four

December 2019		
<p>The Mandy Perkins Memorial Award was launched to recognise an organisation, group or person who has gone the extra mile to make the borough a safer or more supportive place for those affected by domestic abuse. It has been set up by the local Domestic Abuse Forum on which she served as vice-Chair for many years.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>The council has teamed up with the County Council to submit a planning application for a new Household Waste Recycling Centre in Welwyn Garden City. A multi-million pound investment from both authorities will completely redevelop the Tewin Road site currently used as a base for the council's streetscene contractors. Modern depot facilities will be developed to replace the existing site at Cole Green on the A414 providing multiple improvements for residents.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>A council house that was illegally sub-let has been taken back by the council following a court ruling. The tenant had built up considerable rent arrears, having not paid the rent lawfully due to the council while sub-letting the property. The judge therefore made an order for the rent arrears to be paid back to the council and the property returned to the possession of the council.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>The council celebrated reaching an impressive seven national awards finals in 2019 for its work in the borough. These included the UK Housing Awards, Revo Awards for regeneration and Building Control Awards. It was also successful in a number of categories in the regional Anglia in Bloom Awards.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Five</p>
<p>Administration of the 2019 General Election was successfully completed by the council with the constituency recording a turnout close to 70 per cent of all people registered to vote. Many staff and other contracted people participated in what, for some, was their third election in 2019 following the local council and European parliamentary elections early in the year.</p>	<p>Business Plan (U)</p>	<p>Five</p>