

**Appendix A: Council Achievements List 2015-16 (Quarter 4, Jan-March 2016)**

**Corporate Priorities:**

- One – Maintain a safe and healthy community
- Two – Protect and enhance the environment
- Three – Meet the borough’s housing needs
- Four – Help build a strong local economy
- Five – Engage with our communities and provide value for money

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<b>January 2016</b>		
A new Economic Development Officer was appointed underlining the council’s corporate priority to help build a strong local economy.	Press release (U)	Four
A WGC restaurant was fined a total of £19,312 by Watford Magistrates Court after its owner pleaded guilty to food hygiene breaches. The investigation by the council's Public Health and Protection team followed a food safety complaint from a member of the public, and numerous food hygiene inspections which found standards were not being complied with.	Press release (U)	One
An open day for potential developers was held at High View in Hatfield. Approximately 15 developers were shown around the area set to be regenerated with new retail and residential units along with community facilities. The tour was followed by a small exhibition at St John's Youth Centre.	Press release (U) Business Plan	Four
Following a review of the Housing Trust which identified opportunities for savings, Cabinet approved a recommendation to begin sharing one Chief Executive and Management Board between the Trust and the council, and start the process of sharing other functions between the two organisations.	Committee	Five

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
A Strategic Housing Forum event was held at the Focolare centre in WGC. The event was well attended by the council's Registered Provider Partners, architects, construction companies, other Local Authority Officers and Members. The event focused on the delivery of affordable housing, the impact of the proposals in the Housing and Planning Bill, and how we can address the future affordable housing needs of the borough.	Business Plan	Three
<b>February 2016</b>		
The Welwyn Hatfield Community Safety Partnership, which includes the council, launched the Saleswatch scheme, raising awareness among retailers of age restricted products and the legislation controlling them.	Press release (N)	One
In a complex case investigated and brought by the council, fines and costs totalling nearly £300,000 were handed down to two companies, one a large multinational, by St Albans Crown Court. They related to an incident involving a faulty escalator which resulted in serious injuries to a woman's leg in the Howard Centre, WGC.	Press release (U)	One
The results of a wide-reaching public consultation on Hatfield's long term future were presented to the public for the first time at three exhibitions. The findings from over 800 responses covered a wide variety of topics including the town centre, Hatfield's identity, transportation, housing, community and leisure, and business	Press release (U)	Four
A tonne of food deemed unsafe for human consumption was seized from a retailer and destroyed following a court order issued by St Albans Magistrates Court. This followed work undertaken by the council's Public Health and Protection Team.	Press release (U)	One
The council hosted a breakfast event for local businesses interested in how they can put themselves in the running for an FSB Hertfordshire (Federation of Small Businesses) award.	Press release (U) Business Plan	Four

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
Over £3,000 was raised at the Mayor's Charity Banquet and Ball, held in the halls of Hatfield House. Around 130 guests joined the Mayor at the venue's Old Palace. Guests included the Mayor's charity Resolve that helps local people with drug and alcohol addiction.	Press release (N)	Five
The Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council met with local MP Grant Shapps at the Houses of Parliament for a question and answer session, arranged by the council. This was part of an annual programme of meetings, activities and events with the Youth Council which also included preparing work for the Unsaid mental health awareness campaign, and the annual Question Time event.	Press release (U)	Five
<b>March 2016</b>		
Over 250 Year Nine students attended Crucial Crew event delivering life skills, the first ever for that age group. Around 30 different partner organisations took part.	Press release (U) Business Plan	One
Council confirmed a seventh consecutive borough council tax precept freeze for 2016/17, and committed additional resources to a task force responding to residents' concerns about fly-tipping in the borough.	Press release (U)	Two and Five
A Community Information Day took place in Millwards, Hatfield, to promote feeling safe in the community. Several issues were identified which a Joint Action Group will work on, then feed back to residents.	Business Plan	One
The borough's best sporting teams, athletes, coaches and school pupils were recognised at an awards evening at the Hawthorne Theatre. The annual Welwyn Hatfield Sports Awards, now in their 7 <sup>th</sup> year, recognise the stars of tomorrow as well as those already making their mark on their chosen sport.	Press release (U)	One and Five
The Domestic Abuse conference for central Hertfordshire, held in the Hawthorne Theatre, was well attended by representatives from over 100 different organisations. It is hoped that the event can be hosted in the borough again next year.	Business Plan	One

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
The Trust achieved end of year tenant arrears debt of 1.03% of the Annual Rent Debit, an improvement on last year's performance of 1.23%. In a challenging environment the Trust has worked collaboratively with the Citizens Advice Bureau and customers to support those struggling to pay their rent, whilst emphasising the importance of good budget management.	Housing Trust Service Delivery Plan	Three and Five
The council, in partnership with Serco, coordinated town centre litter picks as part of the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign, engaging with residents to help spruce up the borough's streets and open spaces ahead of the Queen's 90th birthday.	Press release (U)	Two
17 new affordable homes on six former garage sites were completed following a transfer of land to the Welwyn Garden City Housing Association.	Business Plan	Three
A new community orchard was planted in Digswell by pupils from St John's Primary School and council officers. In addition to providing outdoor classroom space for the children to learn about nature, the new orchard will be used by the neighbouring Forge Art Club for classes. It will also provide a beautiful green space for the whole community to enjoy.	Press release (U)	Two
Students from schools and colleges across the borough who shone in the Welwyn Hatfield Dragons' Apprentice Challenge received awards at Gosling Sports Centre. Now in its third year, the Dragons' Apprentice Challenge raised over £26,000 this year alone for local charities and community groups by working together with local business 'Dragons'.	Press release (U) Business Plan	Five

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