

**Council Achievements List 2020-21 (Quarter 3, October – December 2020)****Corporate Priorities**

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

**(Press releases:** U: Used by local media – print or online, N: Not used by local media)

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<b>October 2020</b>		
The Coronation Fountain in Welwyn Garden City was again turned pink to highlight Breast Cancer Awareness month. The fountain, which needed repairs following a flood in the plant room last year, remained pink until 31 October when the water turned clear again.	Press Release (U)	One
Applications opened for Welwyn Hatfield Small Community Grants, as well as a new Youth Action Grant, for community and charity organisations working with young people in the borough. Both grants offer eligible local applicants funding of between £500 and £2,000.	Press Release (U)	One
The installation of 16 new electric vehicle charging points in car parks across the borough was announced, including in the new Hatfield town centre multi-storey. It follows a successful funding bid to the government which saw the council awarded over £100k from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles.	Press Release (U)	Two

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
Residents will be able to recycle their food waste into energy that will be used to power local communities and fertilise farmland following the delivery of over 40,000 green caddies to homes across the borough, ahead of the start of the food waste collection service in November.	Press Release (U)	Two
Following four months of preparation and demolition works Lovell officially broke ground at High View in Hatfield to deliver 146 quality new homes, a retail centre, community facilities and amenities. The new homes will include 25 per cent affordable housing with the majority available for social rent for people on the council's housing register. 12 retail units will open as well as infrastructure upgrades to improve connections around High View and access to The Hive community centre.	Press Release (U)	Three & Four
HatTech, our spacious and modern business centre for freelancers, entrepreneurs and small businesses, was opened by the Mayor. A £751k Local Growth Fund grant from the Local Enterprise Partnership has helped transform the first floor of the building in Beaconsfield Court, Hatfield into a creative hub offering flexible working space. Its range of cost-effective office units are ideal for start-ups and small businesses looking to make the next step.	Press Release (U)	Four
An Article 4 Direction came into effect in October removing permitted development rights that allowed office buildings to be converted for residential use without planning permission. It covers the most strategically important office sites in the borough and followed a number of concerns about the amount of employment space lost, with some 27,000sqm of office space in Welwyn Hatfield converted for residential use since 2013.	Press Release (U)	Four
A one-off grant of £500 was introduced for people told to self-isolate for 14 days either due to a positive Covid test or having been in contact with someone who is positive. Residents had to be in receipt of welfare benefits, be employed or self-employed, be unable to work from home and lose income as a result, and been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.	Press Release (U)	Five

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<b>November 2020</b>		
The Mayor and Deputy Mayor presented local charity Potential Kids with a cheque for £9,000. This was culmination of fundraising they had spearheaded over the past 12 months. The charity provides learning, social and sports opportunities to neurodiverse children and young people (e.g. Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Tourette Syndrome) and their siblings and families.	Press Release (U)	One
Remembrance Sunday 'Remembering At Home' went live on our website and on Facebook on 8 November starting with two minutes silence at 11.00am. We saw approximately 2,500 views of our commemoration which attracted some excellent feedback from the public, local partners and other organisations.	Press Release (U)	One
The borough's Youth Council hosted a ground-breaking virtual 'Question Time'. Aimed at local young people aged 11-19 it formed part of UK Parliament Week 2020. Panel members included the Leader of the Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the County Council's Director for Children and Young People and the Chief Executive of ONE YMCA.	Press Release (N)	One
Planning approval was given to re-develop the existing streetscene depot and co-locate a new Household Waste Recycling Centre in Welwyn Garden City. The 1.6 hectare site in Tewin Road will have one area retained as the contractors' depot with a major upgrade and modernisation of facilities including a vehicle wash, workshop, material bays, fuel station and a two-storey car park and storage areas. The other part of the site will be redeveloped as a Recycling Centre replacing the existing local site at Cole Green on the A414.	Press Release (U)	Two
Proposals for 13,277 new homes were made for delivery through the new Local Plan until 2036. The Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel's key recommendations included agreeing an Objectively Assessed Need. The recommended sites for development are mostly in line with proposals consulted on earlier in 2020.	Press Release (U)	Three

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
Proposals were unveiled for the Campus West car park to unlock the potential of other sites across WGC town centre for redevelopment. This could see the construction of a decked structure increasing the number of spaces from 334 to 685. This would then release the Campus East car park for redevelopment at a later stage without impacting car parking that serves the town centre and local businesses.	Press Release (U)	Four
Your Welwyn Hatfield - 123,000 people, seven questions, one future. People who, live, work or spend a significant amount of time in Welwyn Hatfield were asked to answer seven big questions. The responses will be used to develop a shared vision for the future of Welwyn Hatfield and, crucially, to inform the council's priorities for the next three years as it emerges from the impacts of the pandemic.	Press Release (U)	Five
<b>December 2020</b>		
Nominations opened for the prestigious Welwyn Hatfield Civic Awards which celebrate the extraordinary commitment and inspirational achievements of local people. Winners of the borough's highest accolade are presented with a personalised trophy, a certificate and a cheque for £250. The recipients' names are also entered into an official Civic Awards book where their achievement is recorded for posterity.	Press Release (N)	One
The Welwyn Hatfield Warner Homes Scheme is being run in partnership with community interest company Yorkshire Energy Solutions, aiming to help vulnerable residents across the borough increase the energy efficiency of their homes. This includes funding for boiler replacements, loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, and first time central heating systems. Homeowners and private renting tenants could be eligible for a grant if they in receipt of certain benefits or are on a low income.	Press Release (N)	Two
A ground-breaking event at Minster Close in Hatfield officially marked the start of construction of 90 new high-quality apartments for older people. Comprising one and two bedroom flats, each with their own private balcony, these will be available through the council's Affordable Housing Programme. This £20m project also includes a community lounge and sun room, as well as parking, mobility scooter storage and electric charging points.	Press Release (U)	Three

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>Christmas came early for lucky children who scooped prizes in the borough's Christmas celebrations. Prizes were awarded in the Dear Santa letter writing competition and a Wonderful Winter Wonderland colouring competition. A £100 gift card to spend in the town centres plus prizes for use at Campus West and Mill Green Museum were given out.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p>Free online training was offered to local taxi drivers who help residents to make essential journeys in the pandemic. Drivers who successfully complete the short e-learning course can display 'Travel with Confidence' stickers on their vehicle. They will also qualify for a £100 reimbursement towards the cost of a screen to separate the driver and their passengers to further reduce the risk of infection.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p>Businesses in Welwyn Hatfield impacted by the pandemic were advised to apply to a new Additional Restrictions Grant administered by the council. All successful applicants would receive a minimum of £500. It followed on from earlier support schemes which saw £15.15m paid out to 1,125 eligible businesses such as shops, cafes, hotels, and restaurants.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Five</p>