

**Council Achievements List 2020-21 (Quarter 4, January – March 2021)****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>January 2021</b>		
A new website for Welwyn Hatfield residents offering support and information on improving personal health and wellbeing, launched on 11 January. The Welwyn Hatfield Healthy Hub ( <a href="https://healthyhub.welhat.gov.uk">https://healthyhub.welhat.gov.uk</a> ) is an online one-stop shop providing access to local services, support groups, events and advice on issues affecting both mental and physical health. The Hub is part of a county-wide programme and network funded by Hertfordshire County Council.	Press Release (U)	One
A commemoration of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January was held online with two videos on this year's theme of 'be the light in the darkness.' The videos featuring members of Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council, faith leaders, and the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, encouraged everyone to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to but also to consider the many ways in which we can resist the darkness.	Press Release (N)	One

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
A £6.7million development of thirty new affordable homes has been provided as the Council and its new housing company completed the purchase of two blocks of one and two bedroom apartments. Now Housing, owned by the Council, acquired new homes in Chequersfield. It is the first acquisition for this new company which provides homes for local households who are struggling to afford market rent prices. Now Housing has plans to provide around 400 new affordable homes over the next five years.	Press Release (U)	Three
A project to improve a key street in the heart of Welwyn Garden City town centre is set to start in July. The transformation of Stonehills is the first phase in wider plans by the County and Borough Council to enhance the town centre by reducing vehicle conflicts and improving the environment for people travelling on foot and by bike. Phase one works are expected to take around six months to complete with phase two to follow in 2022.	Press Release (U)	Four
The Council outlined proposals to deliver a budget for 2021-22 with no cuts to frontline services despite the impact of COVID-19. It included plans to bridge a budget funding gap and realising efficiency savings from service reviews as part of an ongoing modernisation programme. A five-year capital spending programme and significant investment in providing more affordable homes and maintaining council housing stock formed part of this.	Press Release (U)	Five
<b>February 2021</b>		
The Council issued a number of COVID-19 related press releases including the opening of a new large scale vaccination centre at the former Roche Pharmaceuticals building on Shire Park in Welwyn Garden City, and the introduction of new rapid testing for anyone without coronavirus symptoms to prevent infection spreading. This was coordinated among all local authorities in Hertfordshire to get core messages out in a timely and consistent way.	Press Release (U)	One
The Welwyn Hatfield Community Safety Partnership invited residents to share their views on how safe they feel in their local communities. Organisations including the police, fire service, the Council, education providers and justice services unite around a common goal to keep communities safe places to live, work and study. The survey provides vital information to help develop strategies and allocate resources to keep our neighbourhoods safe	Press Release (N)	One

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>The Council received feedback on a new Climate Change Strategy via a public survey. It has set itself five ambitious strategic objectives including the reduction of carbon emissions across the borough by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy, sustainable transport and behavioural change with the aim of net zero emissions by 2030. A new Strategy was published in March.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>The Council was awarded three large grants from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to reduce carbon-based fuel use and emissions at its Campus East, Campus West and Hatfield Swim Centre locations. These grants will enable the replacement of the gas-fired boilers with a combined ASHP (Air Source Heat Pump) and WSHP (Water Source Heat Pump) primary plant system. Work is due to be completed by this autumn.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>The Council revised its plans for Campus West car park in response to feedback from local residents. It will now reduce the new structure from two decks to one. A single deck will deliver 156 new parking spaces at Campus West and not having two new decks will be mitigated by retaining more spaces elsewhere in the town centre. This project is the first phase in wider regeneration proposals to deliver new homes, leisure, retail and community spaces in the heart of Welwyn Garden City.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p><b>March 2021</b></p>		
<p>It was confirmed that many of the borough's sport and leisure services were able to open from 29 March onwards following the publication of the UK government's recovery roadmap. This has seen the return of golf, playing pitches, racquet sports and sailing activities, and more recently the reopening of gyms, swimming pools and lawn bowls in the borough. Other leisure facilities, such as Campus West and the Mill Green Museum and Mill, will reopen over the summer as COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease and hopefully end completely.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>The borough has been awarded the rare and prestigious 'Tree City of the World' award for a second year. Just 120 cities in 63 countries have achieved this recognition this year and Welwyn Hatfield is just one of 11 local authorities in the UK to secure accreditation. The award recognises high standards in tree care and tree stock management. The Council manages around 100,000 woodland trees and 17,000 street trees at this time. Annually our trees are estimated to capture and store 2,400 tonnes of carbon and remove 31 tonnes of pollution from the ground.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>565 tonnes of food waste has been collected and recycled from local residents since the weekly kerbside service was introduced in November 2020. This would produce enough electricity to power 62 homes for a year, boil 2,640,810 kettles, watch 5,281,620 hours of television, or run 880 fridge freezers for a year. The Council hopes to extend the food waste collection service to flats in the future to further improve recycling rates in the borough.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>A landlord who let a house in multiple occupation (HMO) without a license or adequate fire protection has been ordered to pay a fine totalling £23,500. The property lacked adequate fire protection required for HMOs including no linked fire alarm to give an early warning in case of emergency or self-closing fire doors which protects escape routes. The investigation was conducted by the council's private sector housing and planning teams followed complaints about its safety from concerned neighbours and tenants.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>The further regeneration of Hatfield town centre is now underway with the completion of the town's new multi-storey car park. With over a third of land in Hatfield town centre currently being used for surface-level parking The Common car park will help to consolidate parking and release other sites across the town centre for regeneration. The car park was funded by a £4.8m Local Growth Fund investment from the Hertfordshire LEP with an additional £1.2m from the Council's capital projects budget.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>Following the biggest borough-wide conversation in a generation the Council has used the views of over 1,600 people in Welwyn Hatfield to set its priorities for the next three years. A new Corporate Plan for 2021-24 will aim to deliver: attractive and accessible green spaces supporting the borough's wellbeing; evolving, vibrant town centres and a growing economy; quality homes through managed growth; a sense of community where people feel safe; and a well-run council which puts customers first.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>Five</p>